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Yamasaki et al.

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(54) **FLUSH TOILET**

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E03D 11/02 (2006.01)

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CPC ***E03D 11/02*** (2013.01); *E03D 2201/40* (2013.01)

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CPC E03D 11/02; E03D 11/08; E03D 11/18; E03D 2201/30; E03D 2201/40
USPC 4/420, 421, 425, 345
See application file for complete search history.

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Studebaker & Brackett PC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A flush toilet comprises a bowl portion including a waste receiving surface, a rim portion formed on the top edge portion thereof so that inner circumferential surface thereof rises essentially vertically, and a shelf portion formed between the rim portion and the waste receiving surface; a water spouting portion for spouting flush water onto the shelf portion to form a swirl flow; and a water conduit for supplying the flush water to the spouting portion. The water spouting portion is formed in the front region of the bowl portion, and a part of the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion is formed in an inward-facing overhanging shape; and the water spouting portion is covered by the overhanging part of the rim portion such that a user cannot observe the water spouting portion when viewing from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion.

6 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets

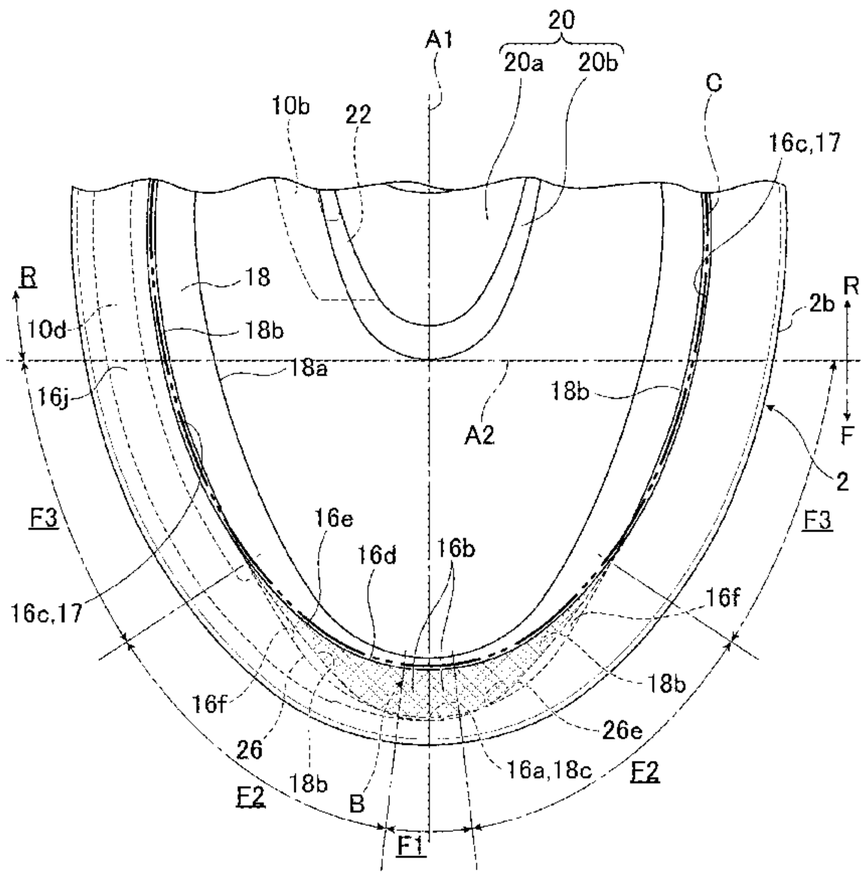

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FIG.1

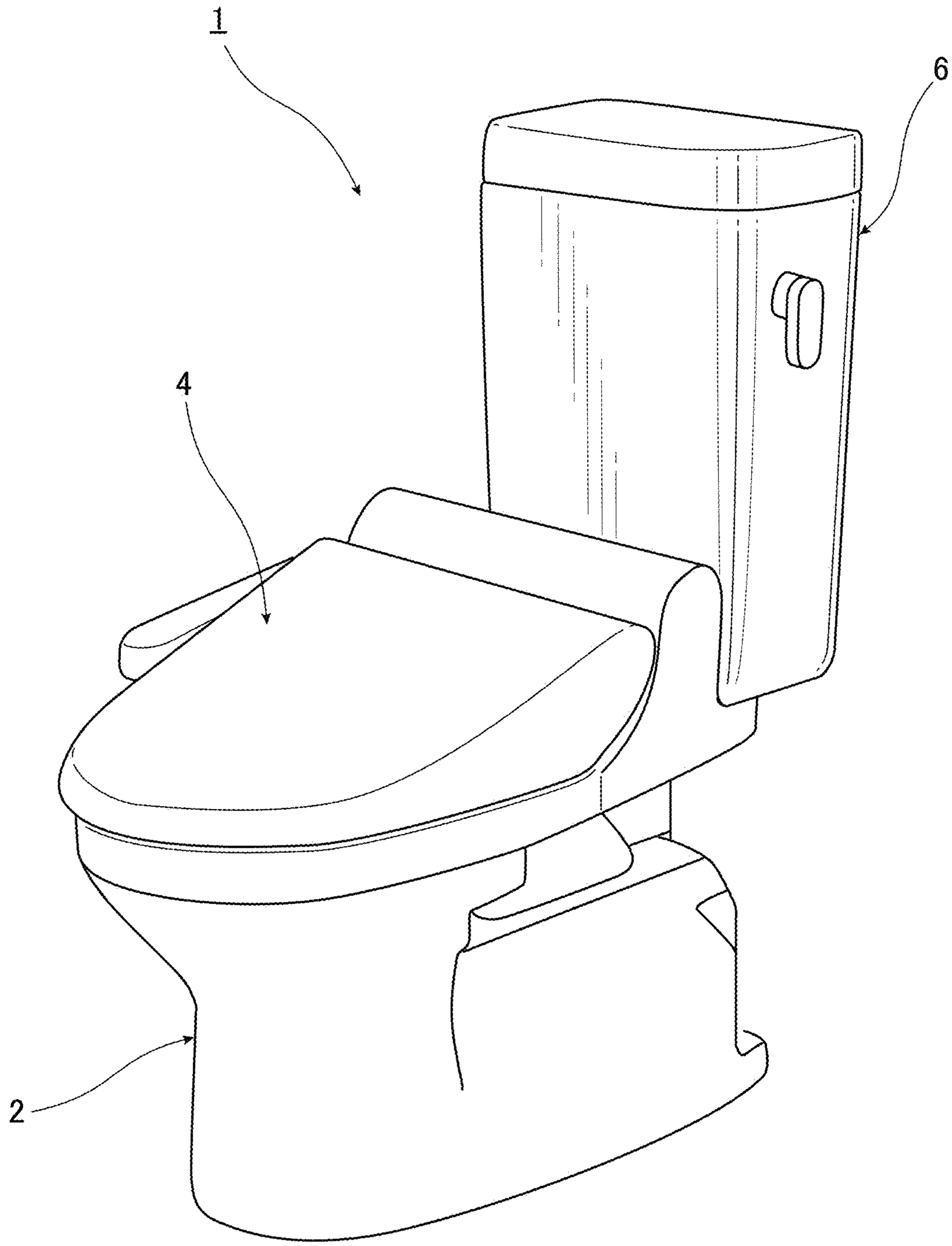
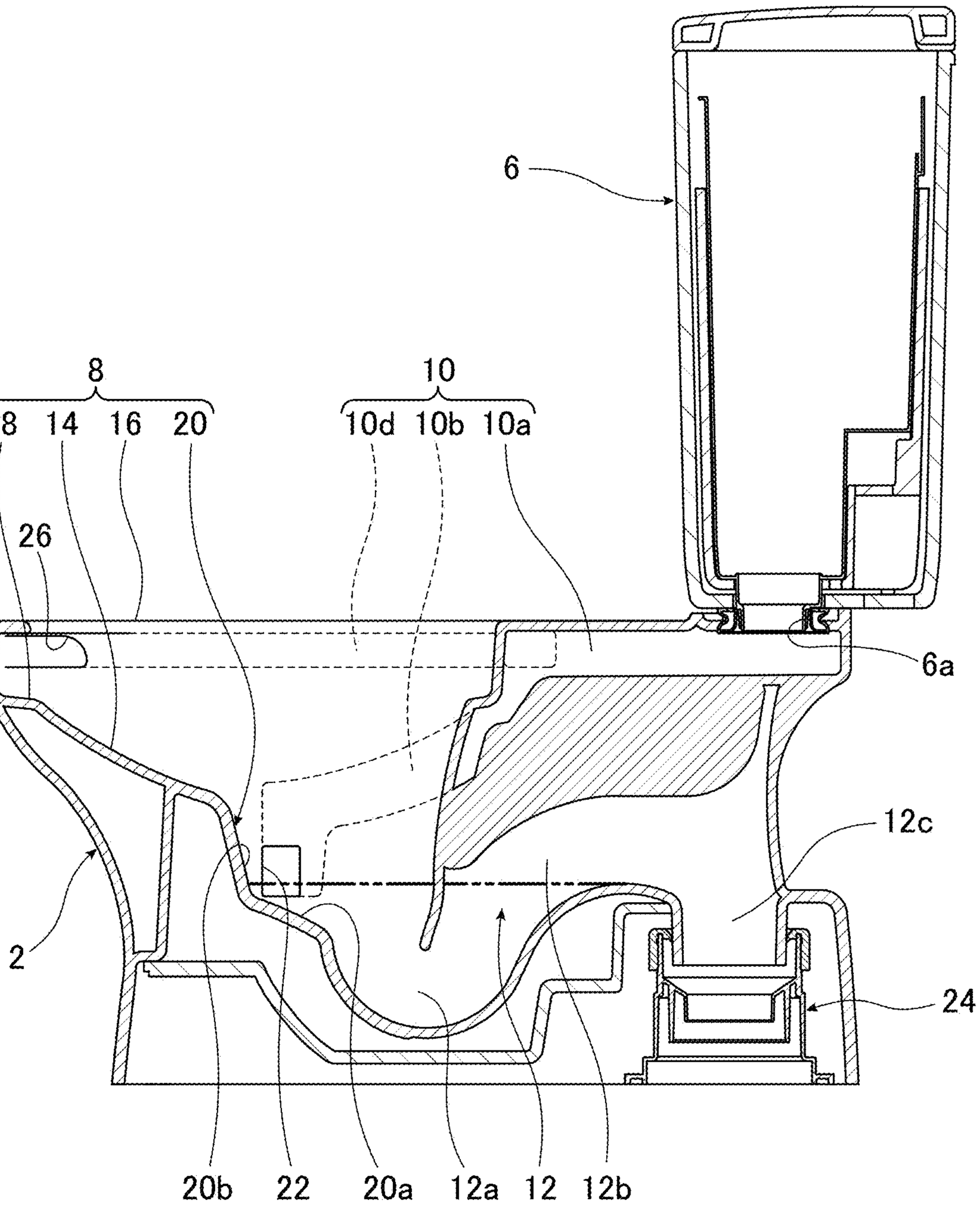


FIG.2



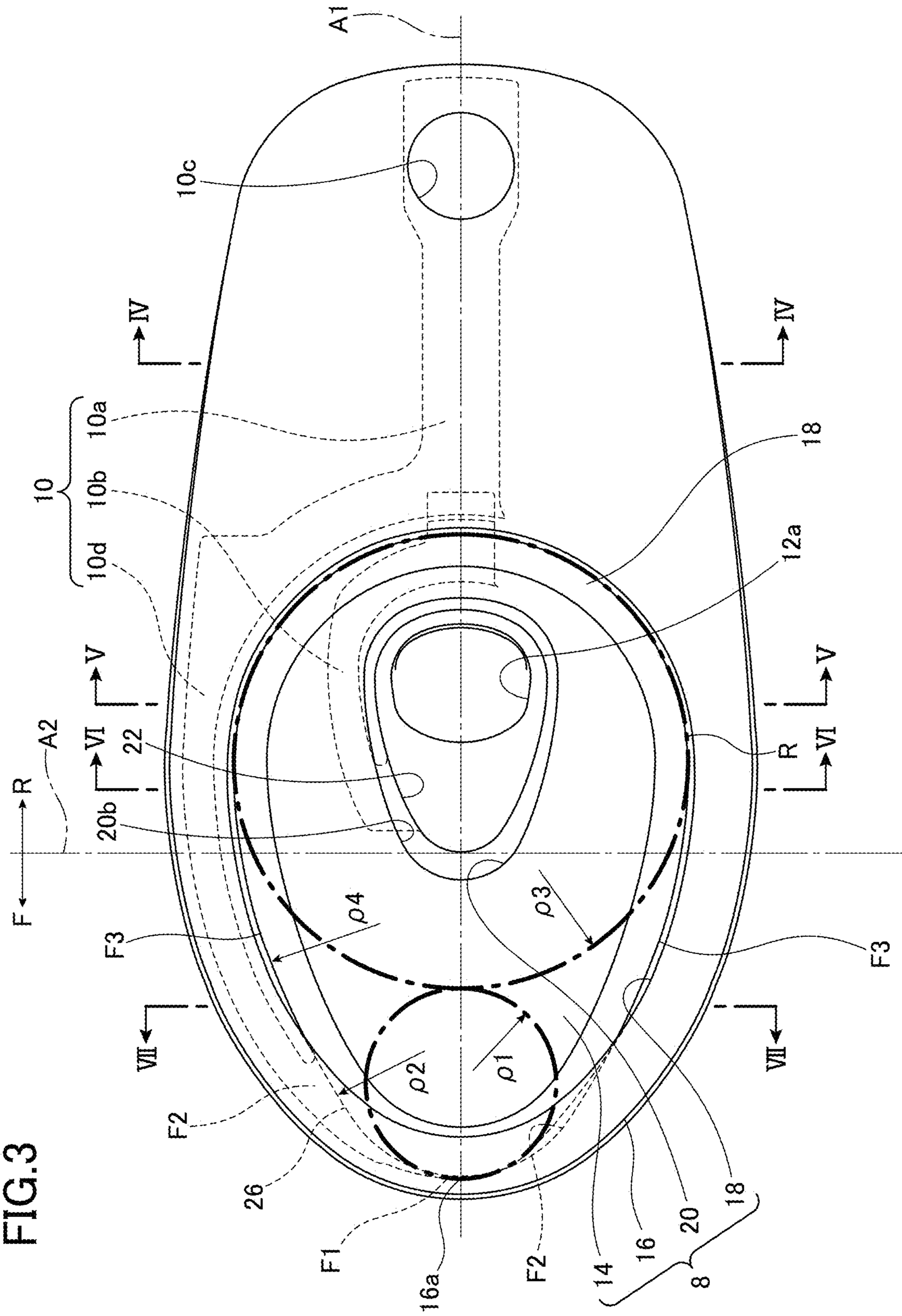

A1
10c
IV
IV
10
10a
10b
10d
18
12a
V
V
VI
22
VI
R
A2
20b
R
F
ρ4
ρ3
F3
F3
VII
VII
ρ2
ρ1
F2
26
F1
16a
F2
14
16
20
18
8

FIG.3

FIG.4

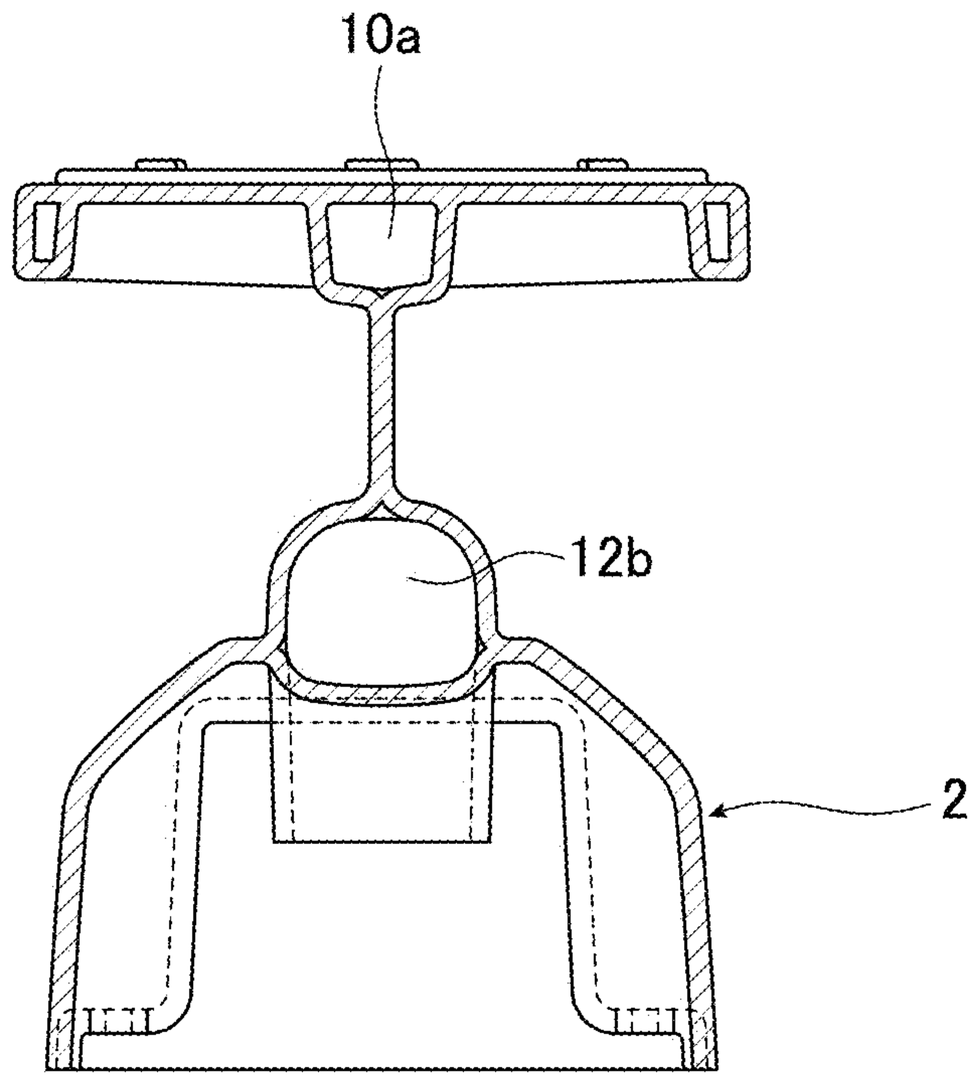


FIG.5

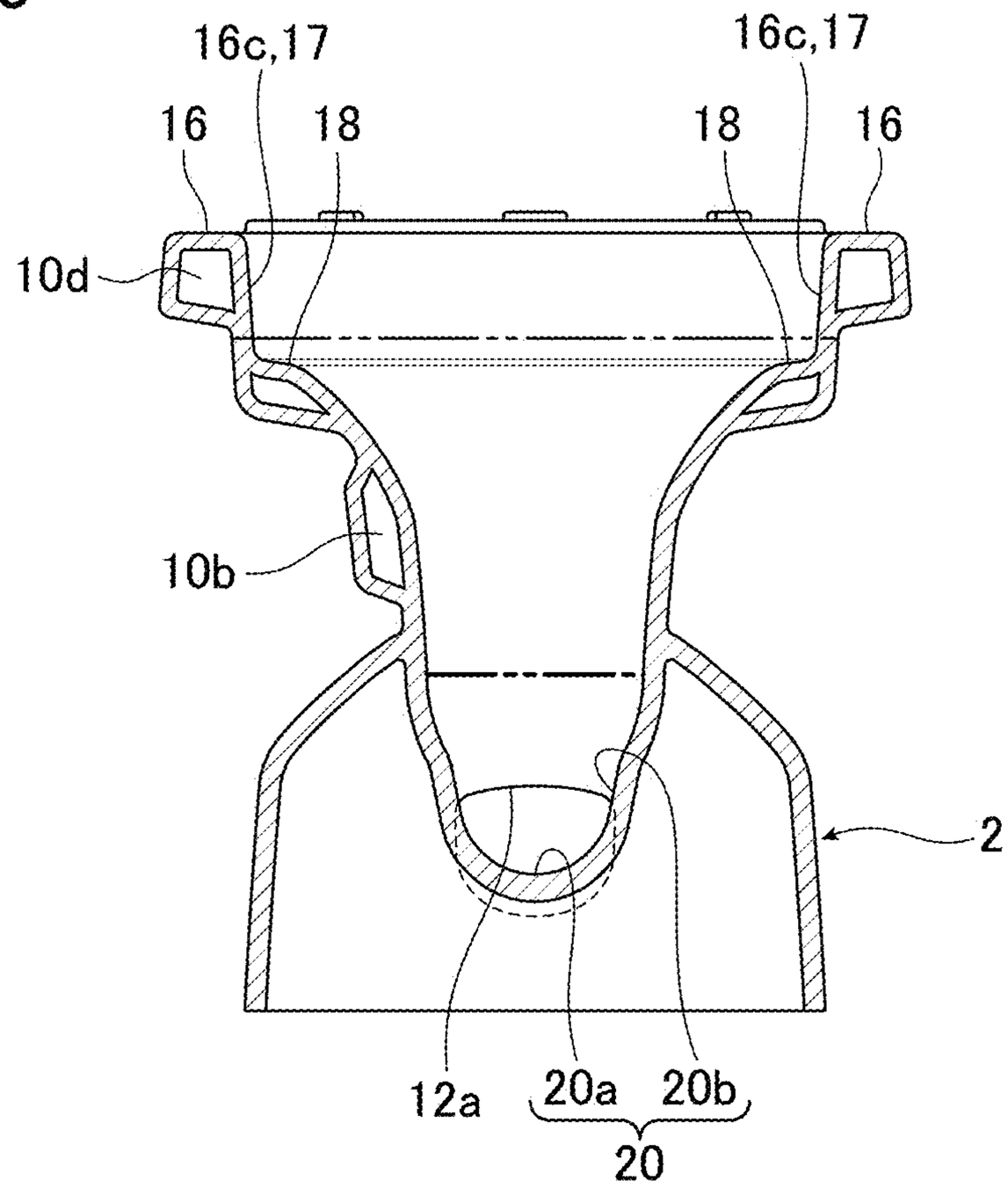


FIG.6

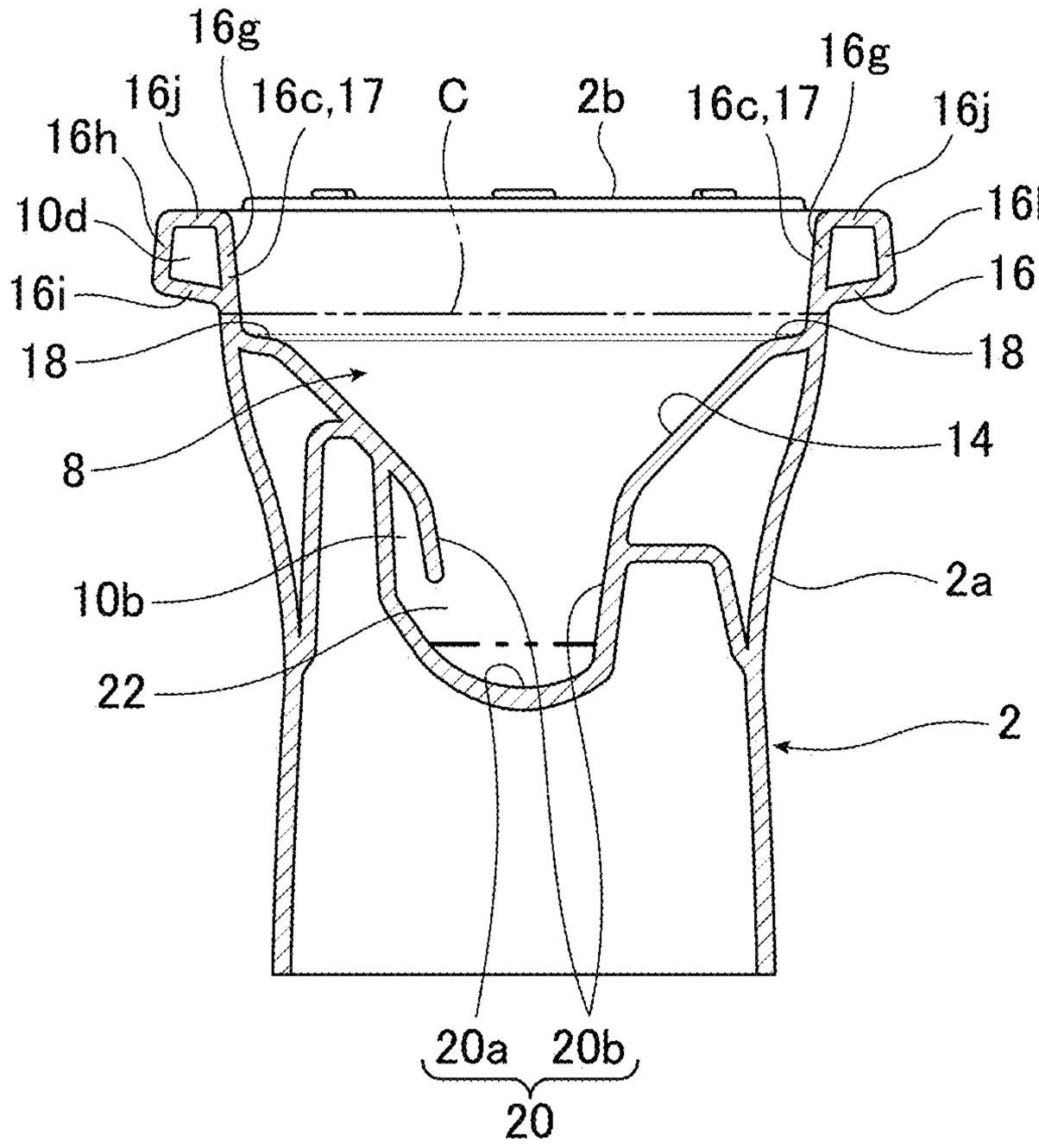
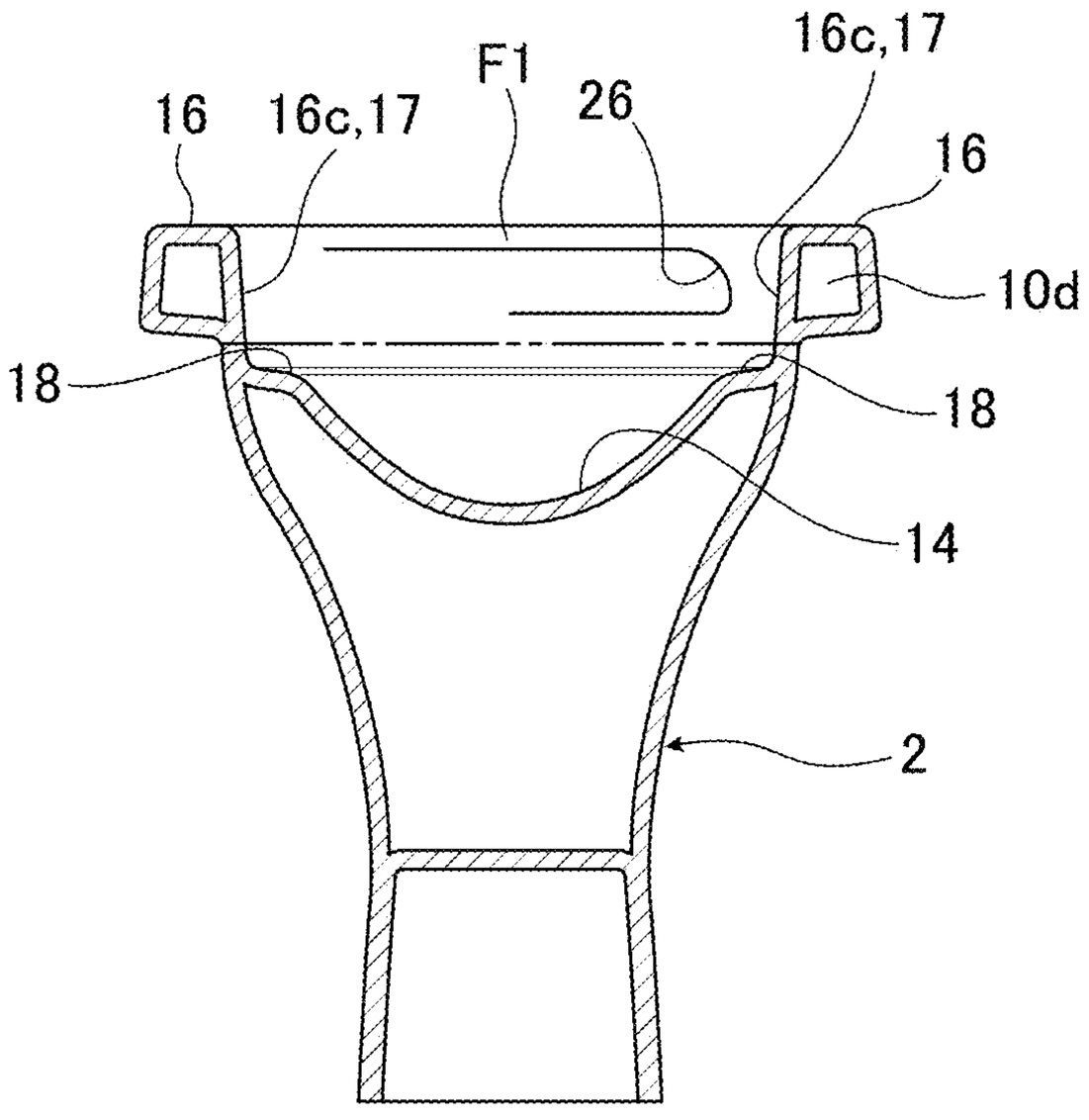

16g
16j
16c,17
C
2b
16c,17
16g
16j
16h
10d
16h
16i
16i
18
18
8
14
10b
2a
22
2
20a
20b
20

FIG.7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16c,17
F1
26
16c,17
16
10d
18
18
14
2

FIG.8

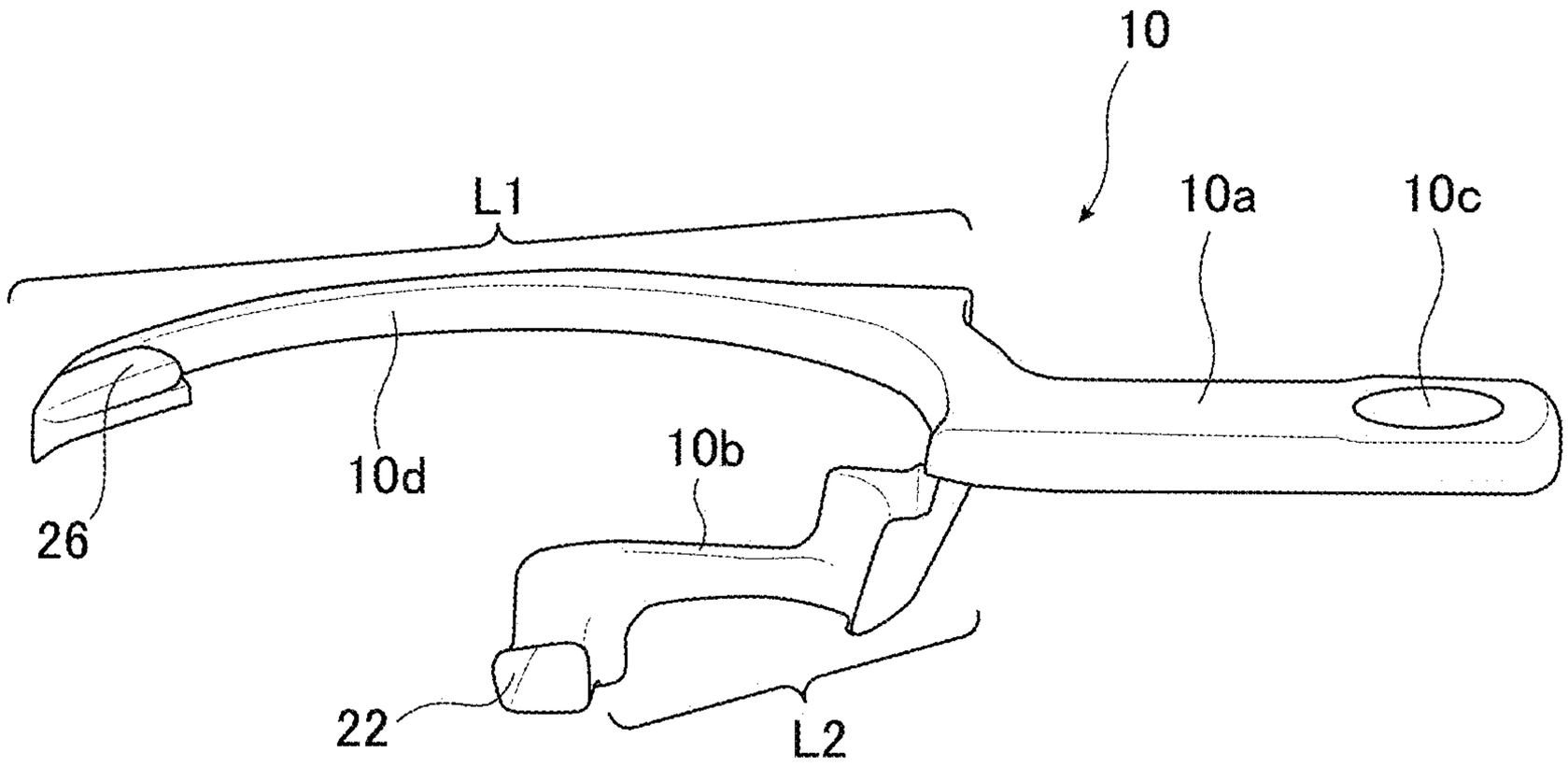

10
L1
10a
10c
10d
10b
26
22
L2

FIG.9

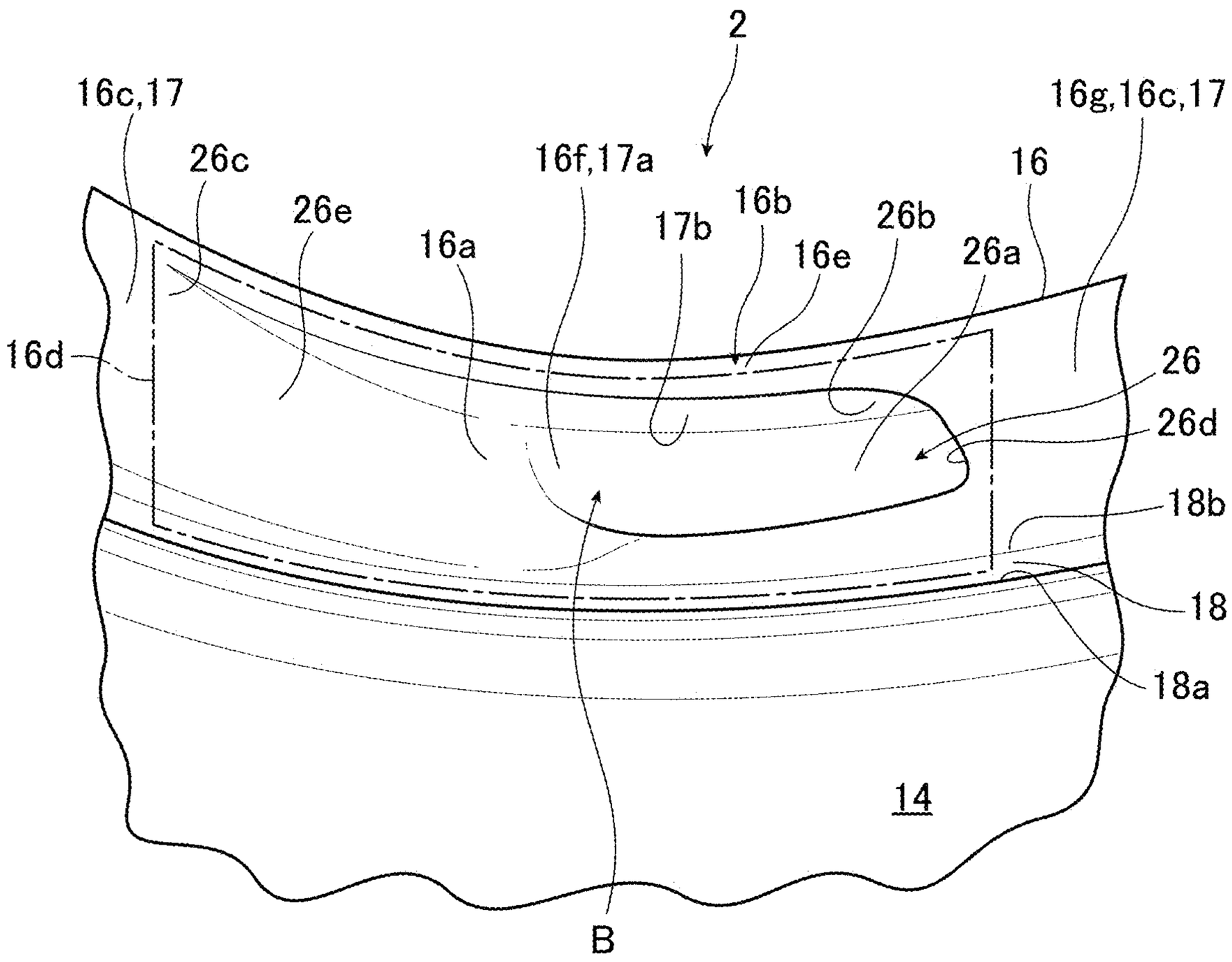

2
16c,17
26c
26e
16a
16f,17a
17b
16b
16e
26b
26a
16
16g,16c,17
16d
26
26d
18b
18
18a
14
B

FIG.10

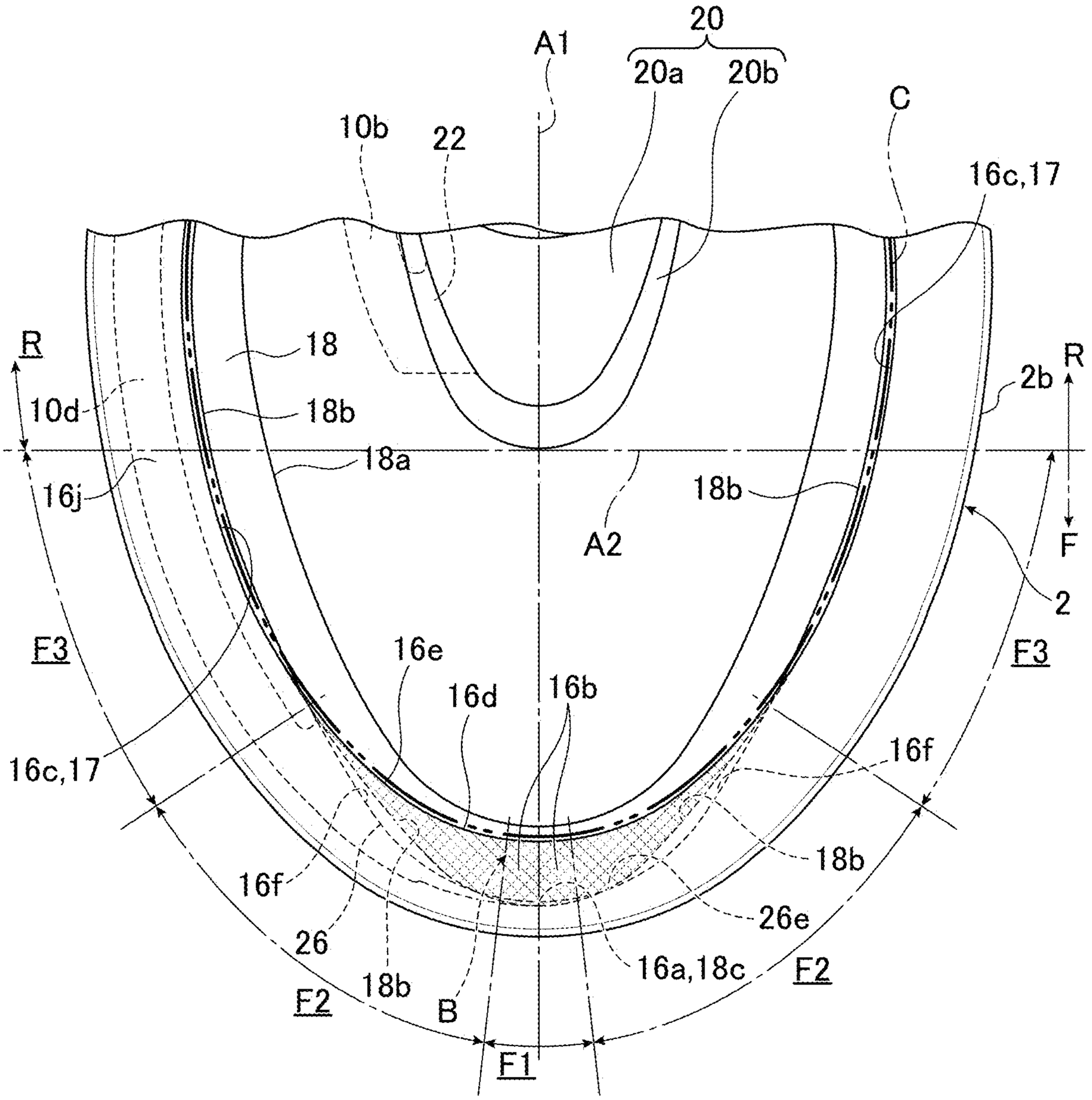

A1
20
20a
20b
C
10b
22
16c,17
R
18
10d
18b
18a
16j
2b
R
A2
18b
F
2
F3
16e
16d
16b
F3
16c,17
16f
16f
18b
26e
26
16a,18c
F2
18b
F2
B
F1

FIG.11

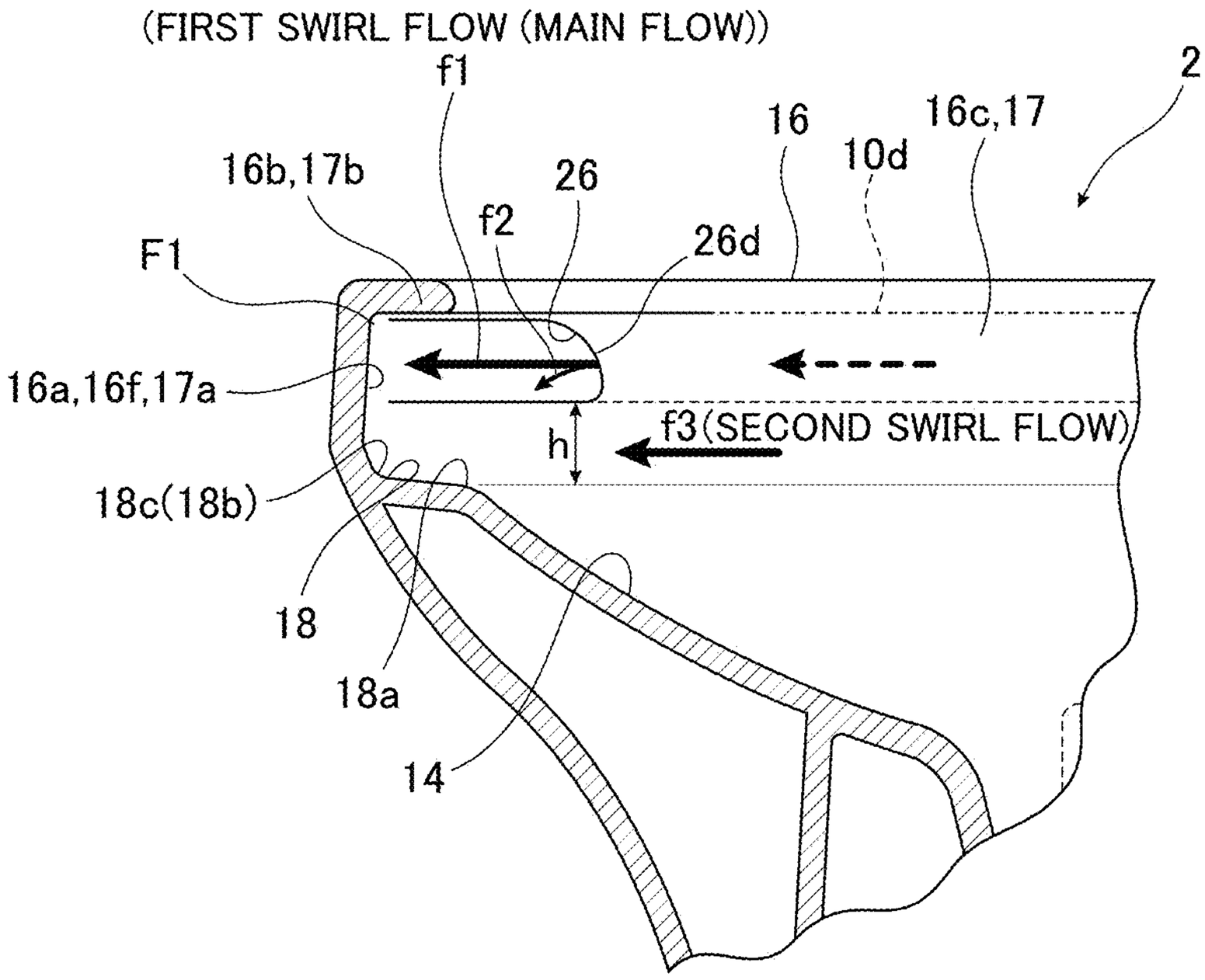

(FIRST SWIRL FLOW (MAIN FLOW))
f1
2
16
16c,17
16b,17b
26
10d
f2
26d
F1
16a,16f,17a
h
f3(SECOND SWIRL FLOW)
18c(18b)
18
18a
14

FIG.12

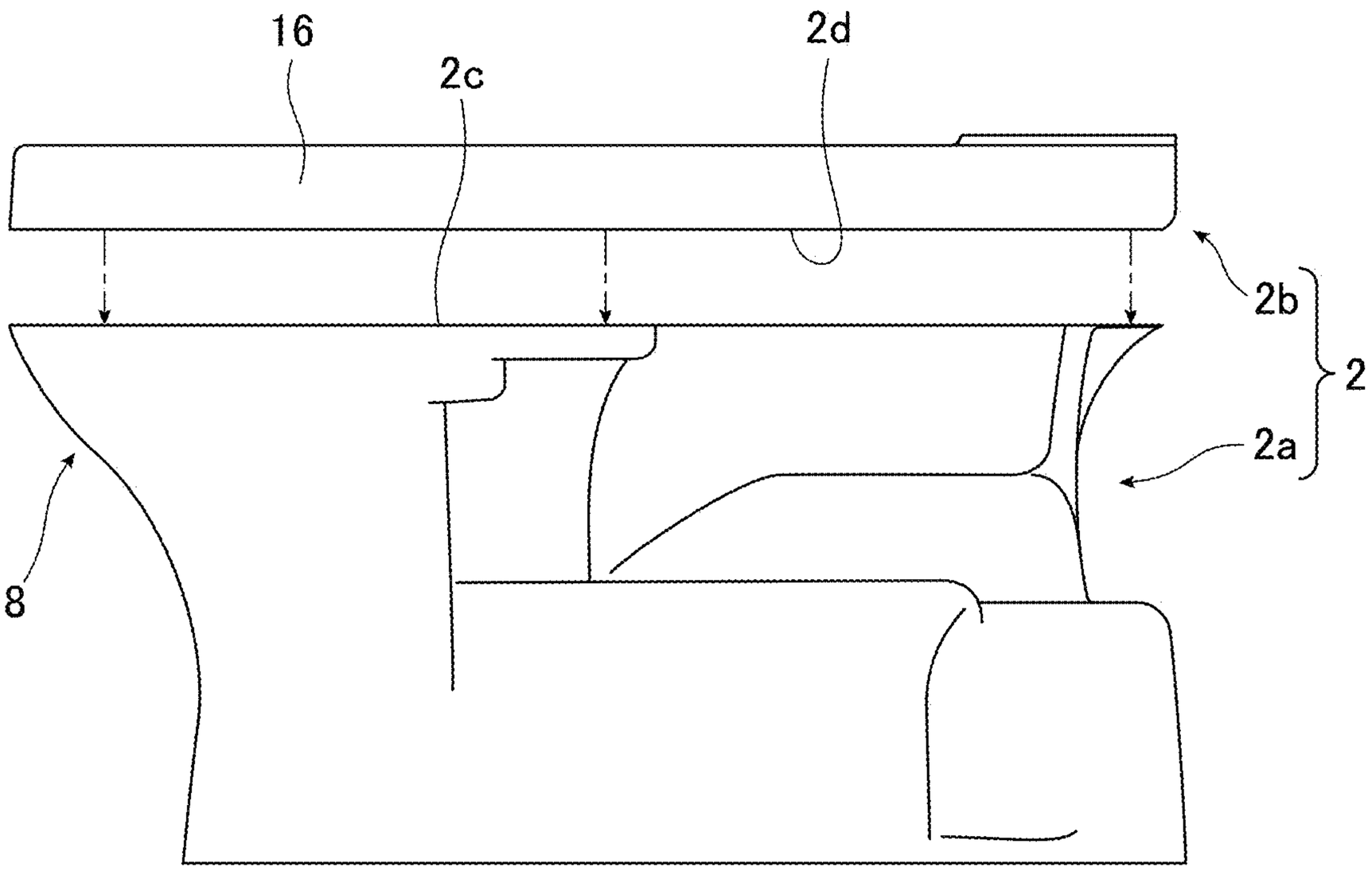

16
2c
2d
2b
2
2a
8

FIG.13

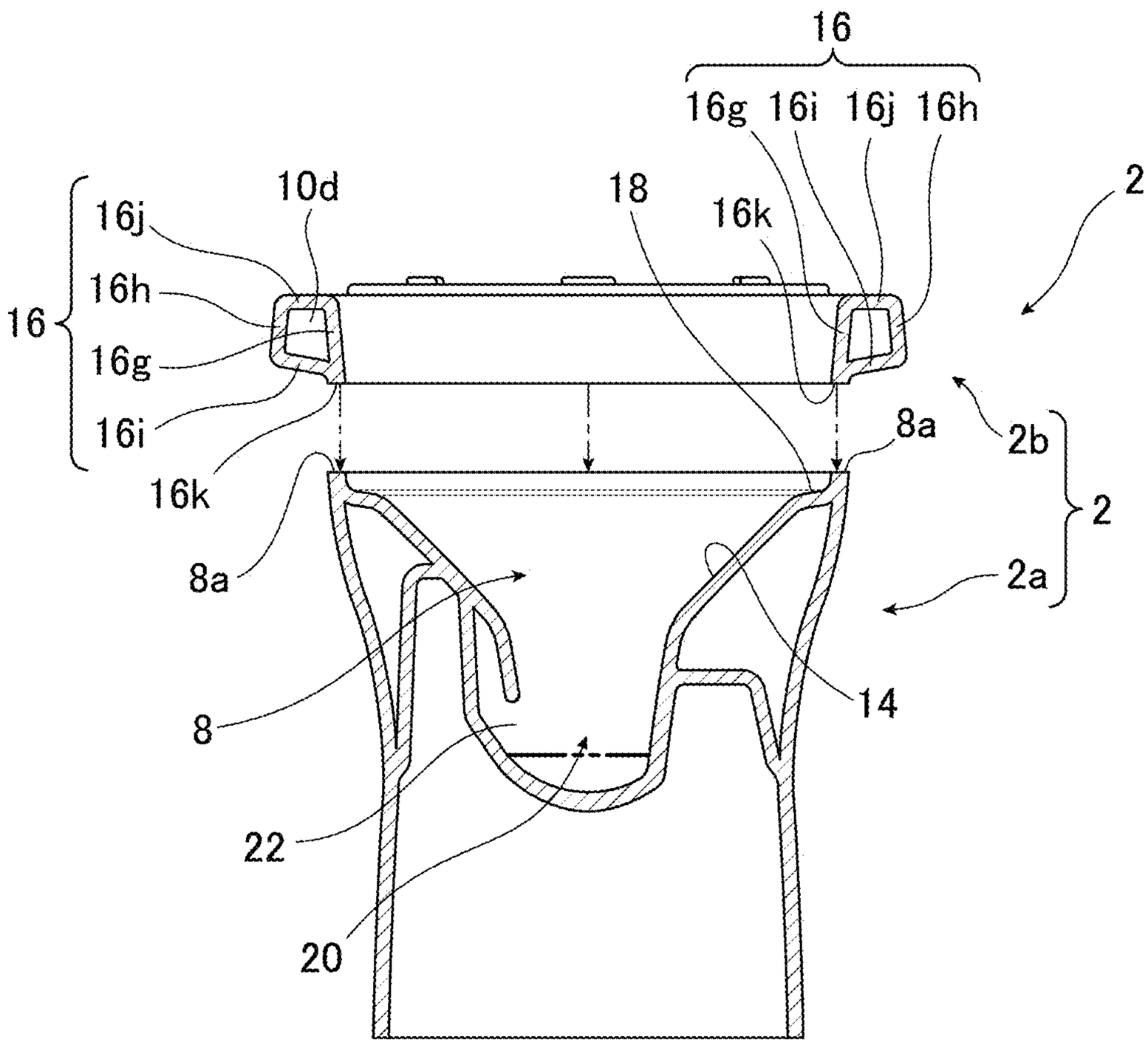

16
16g
16i
16j
16h
2
10d
18
16k
16j
16h
16
16g
16i
16k
8a
2b
2
8a
2a
14
8
22
20

FIG.14

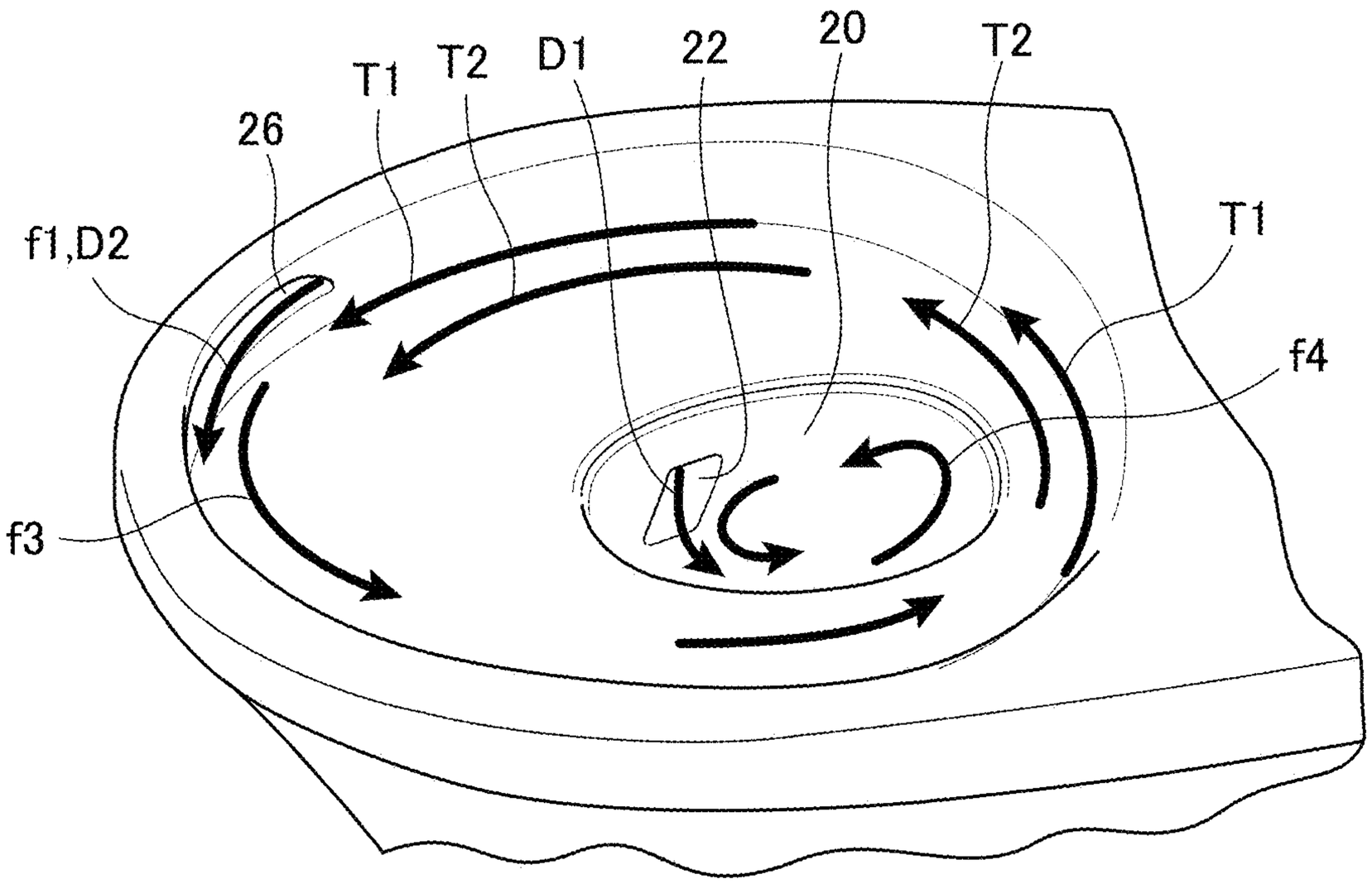

T1
T2
D1
22
20
T2
26
f1,D2
T1
f4
f3

FIG.15

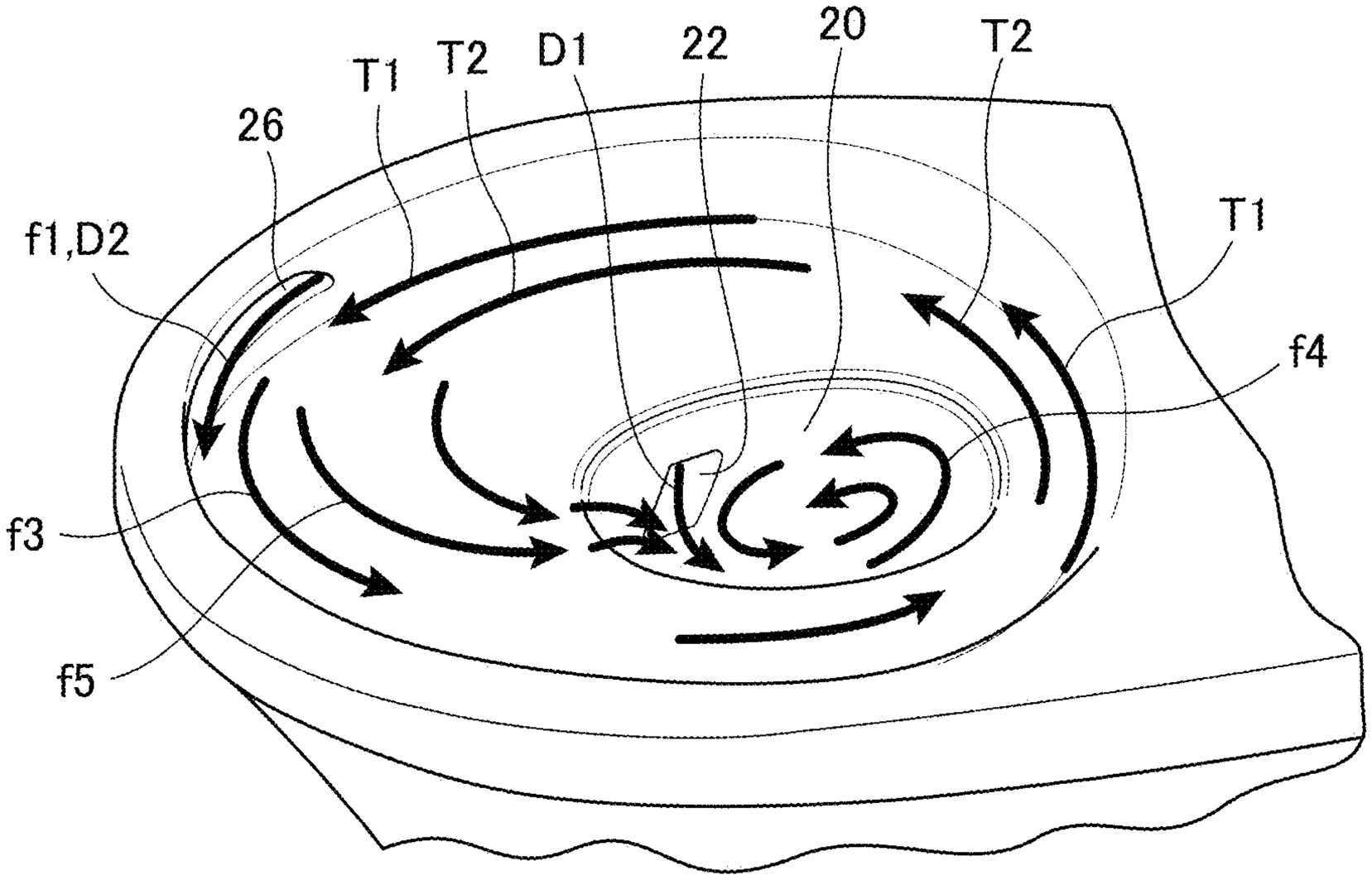

T1
T2
D1
22
20
T2
26
f1,D2
T1
f4
f3
f5

FIG.16(a)

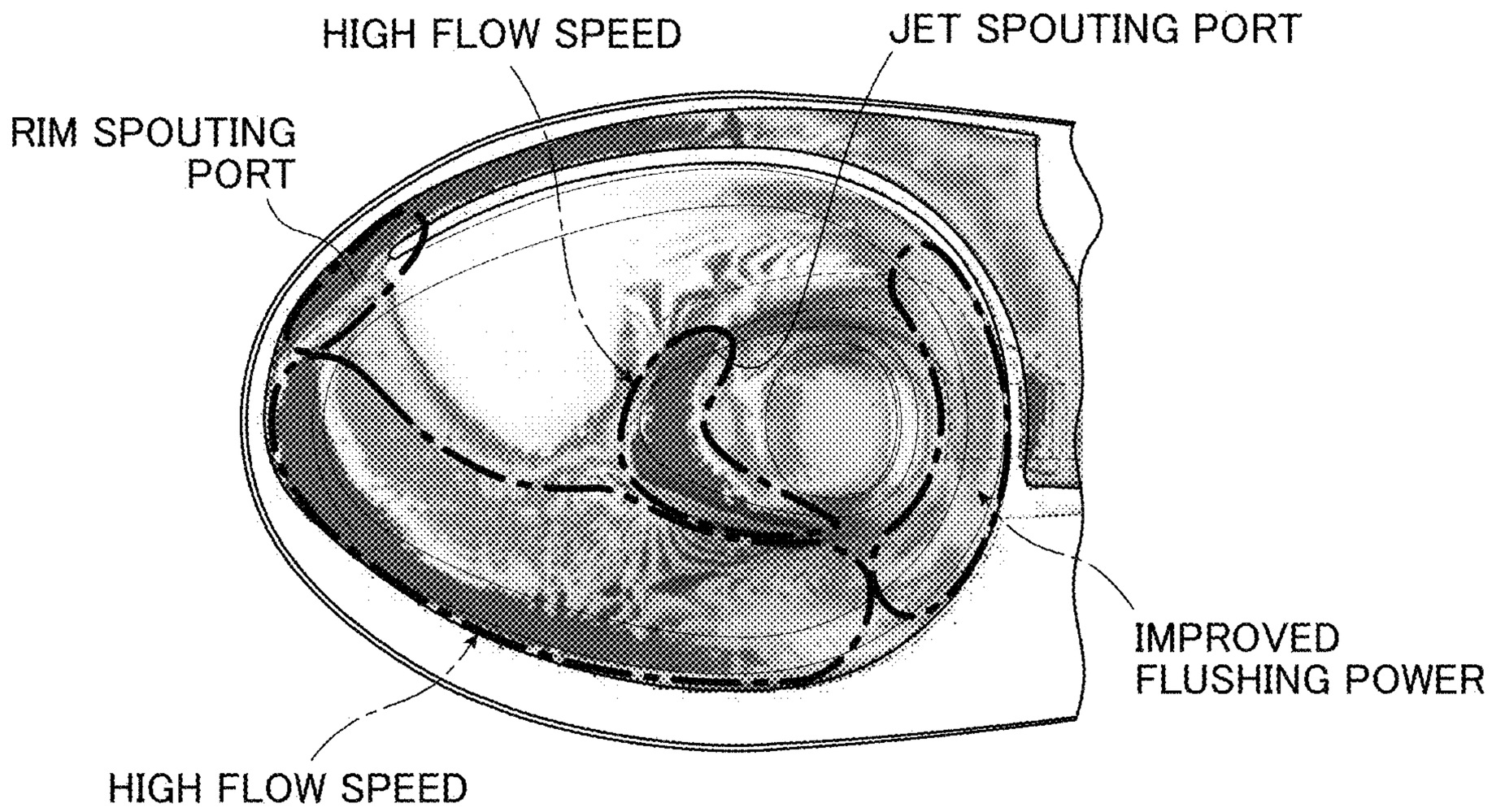


FIG.16(b)

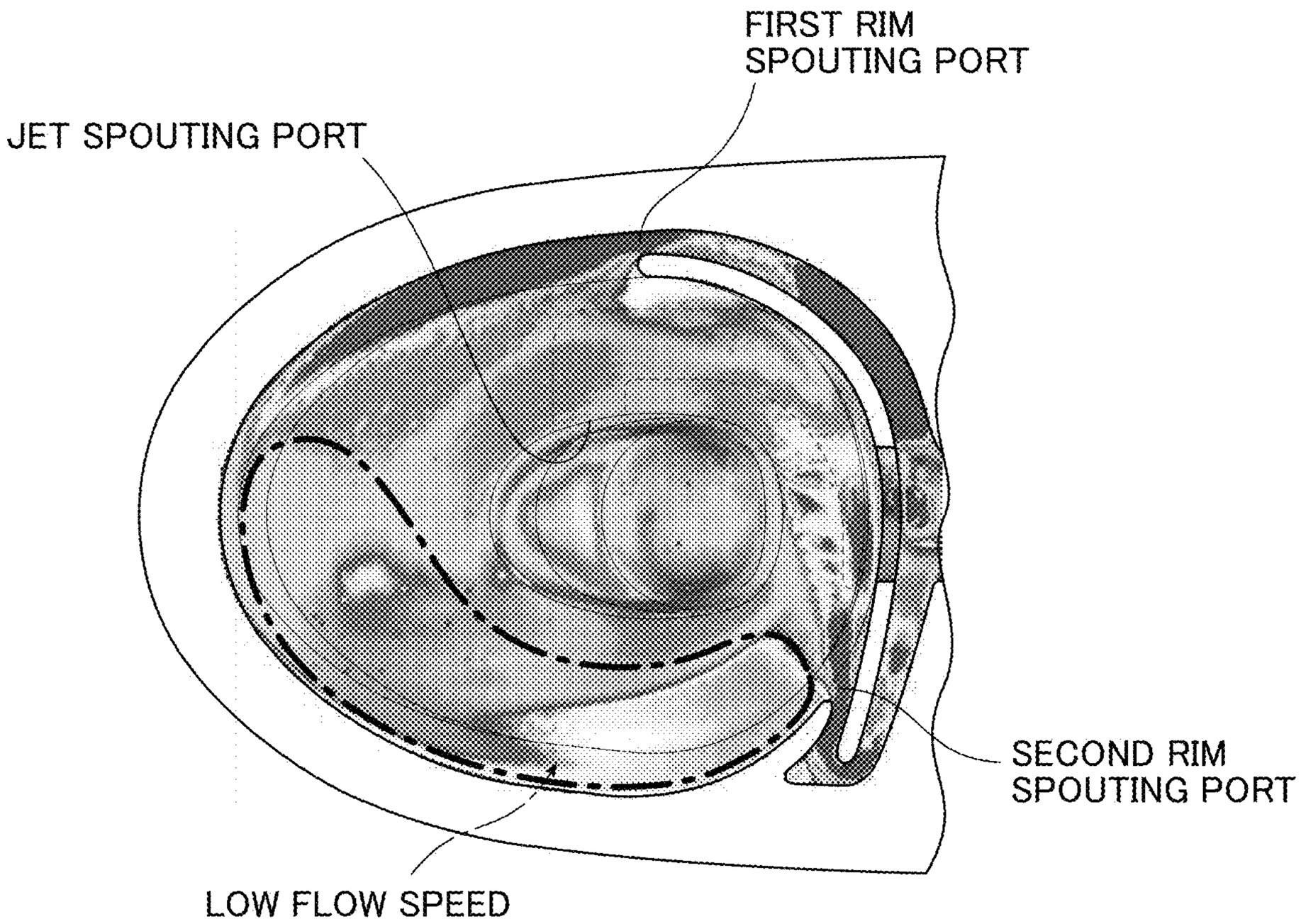


FIG.17(a)

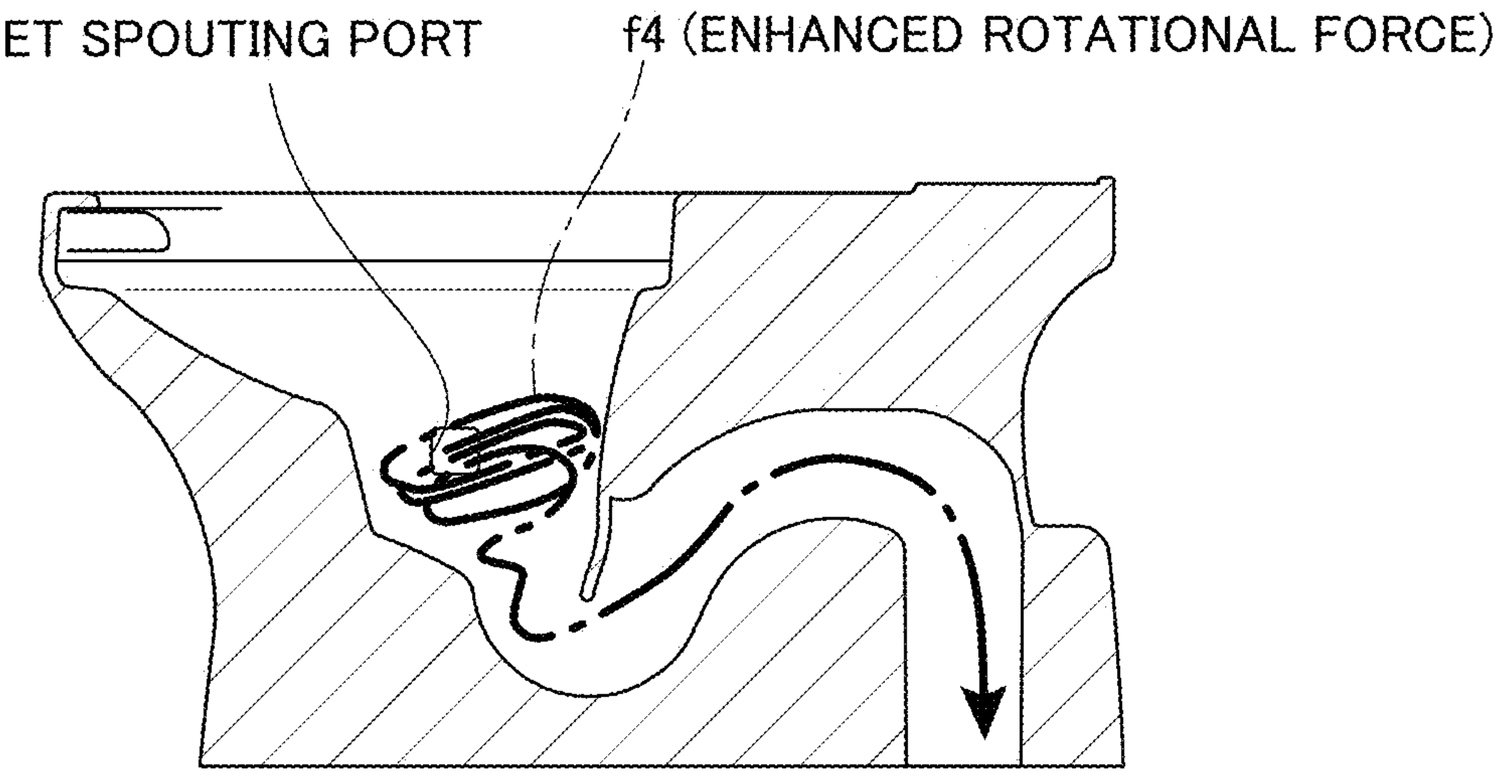
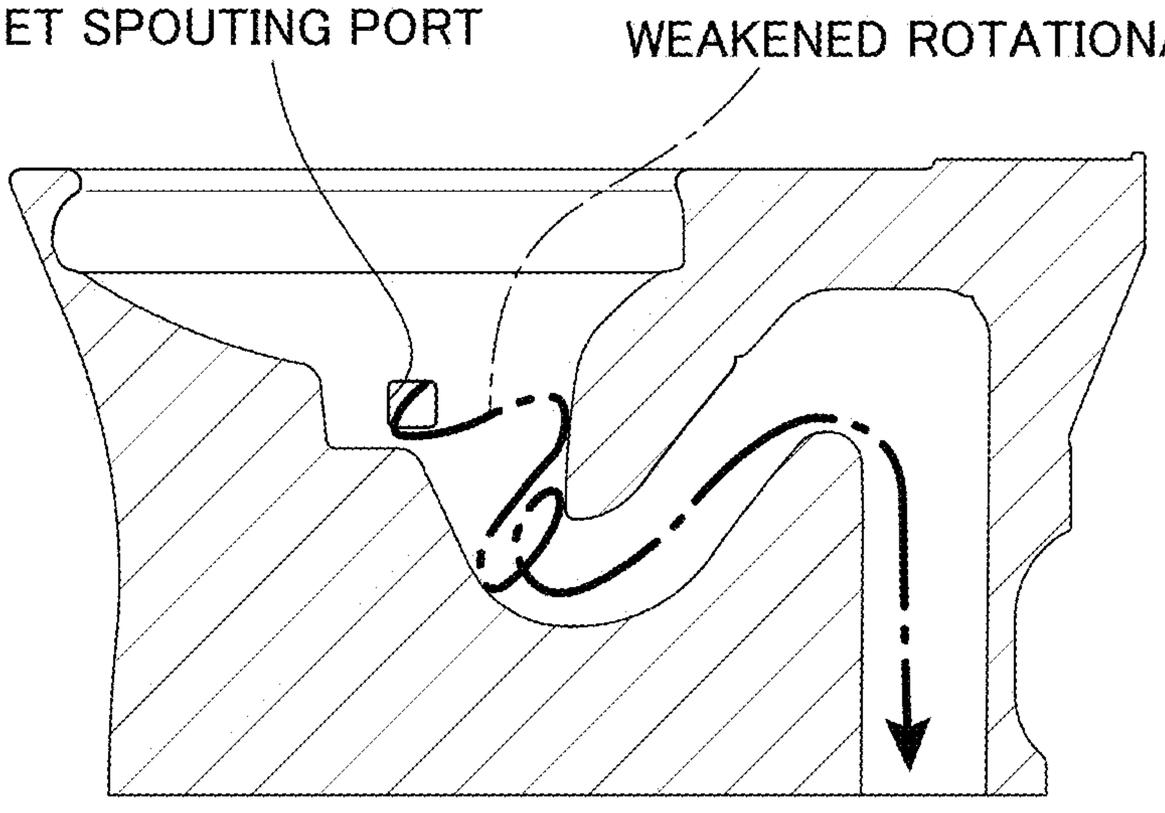


FIG.17(b)



FLUSH TOILET

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a flush toilet, and in particular to a flush toilet for discharging waste using flush water supplied from a flush water supply source.

BACKGROUND ART

As shown in Japanese patent unexamined publication 2005-98003 (patent document 1), a conventional flush toilet for discharging waste by flushing the toilet with flush water is known. In the conventional toilet, the inner circumference of a rim portion formed at the top edge of the bowl portion of the flush toilet is formed to have a vertical or outward-spreading shape, whereby flush water is spouted in a horizontal direction from a water spouting port formed on the rear side of this rim portion so as to form a swirl flow, and is spouted toward a discharge trap from a jet spouting port disposed at the bottom and front end of the bowl portion to generate a siphon effect, thereby discharging waste.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Technical Problem

In a conventional flush toilet such as that shown in the patent document 1, the inner circumference of the rim portion formed on the top edge of the bowl portion is formed in a vertical or outwardly spreading shape, and the entire interior of the bowl can be easily seen from above, thereby imparting superior cleanability to the entire bowl portion when scour-cleaning and the like. On the other hand, when multiple rim spouting ports formed to the rear of the rim portion are disposed, the problem arises that when the interior of the bowl portion is seen from diagonally forward and above by a user, dirt tends to be extremely prominent due to the complexity of the shape, the ease with which it is dirtied, and the difficulty of cleaning, thus reducing the sense of cleanliness perceived by the user and reducing the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a flush toilet capable of improving the sense of cleanliness perceived by users and the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole.

Solution to Problem

The above object is achieved according to the present invention by providing a flush toilet for discharging waste using flush water supplied from a flush water source, the flush toilet comprising a bowl portion including a bowl-shaped waste receiving surface, a rim portion formed on the top edge portion thereof so that inner circumferential surface thereof rises essentially vertically, and a shelf portion formed between the rim portion and the waste receiving surface; a water discharge path for discharging the waste, the path including an inlet which is connected at the bottom of the bowl portion; a water spouting portion for spouting flush water onto the shelf portion of the bowl portion to form a swirl flow; and a water conduit for supplying the flush water to the spouting portion; wherein the water spouting portion is formed in the front region of the bowl portion, and a part of the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion is formed in an inward-facing overhanging shape; and the water spouting portion is covered by the overhanging part of the rim portion such that a user cannot observe the water spouting portion when viewing from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion.

In the present invention thus constituted, the water spouting portion which spouts flush water onto the shelf portion of the bowl portion and forms a swirl flow is formed in the front region of the bowl portion, and is offset from the easily dirtied rear region of the bowl portion, therefore waste has difficulty adhering to the water spouting portion, and because the water spouting portion is covered by the overhanging part of the rim portion, the user cannot perceive it when looking from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion, so the user's perceived sense of cleanliness and the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole are improved.

In the present invention, the water spouting portion is preferably formed in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion, and the overhanging part of the rim portion is formed to be left-right symmetrical in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion so as to cover the water spouting portion.

In the present invention thus constituted, the water spouting portion is formed in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion, and the overhanging part of the rim portion covers the water spouting portion, therefore a user cannot see the rim portion, and the user's perception of cleanliness and the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole can be improved. Moreover, because the overhanging part of the rim portion is formed to be left-right symmetrical in the vicinity of the rim portion of the bowl portion, the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole can be improved.

In the present invention, the water spouting portion is preferably formed on the top end side of the rim portion of the bowl portion.

In the present invention thus constituted, the water spouting portion is formed on the top edge side of the rim portion of the bowl portion, therefore for a user viewing the bowl portion from diagonally forward and above, the water spouting portion falls squarely into the blind angle of the overhanging part of the rim portion, making it more difficult for the user to see the water spouting portion.

The sense of cleanliness perceived by the user can be improved, as can the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole.

In the present invention, the rim portion of the bowl portion is preferably formed to be left-right symmetrical in the region visible to the user from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion.

In the present invention thus constituted, the water spouting portion is hidden by the overhanging part of the rim portion, therefore the rim portion can be made left-right symmetrical over the broad region visible by a user from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion. As a result, the present invention enables the aesthetic appeal of the overall bowl portion to be improved.

In the present invention, the majority of the rear region of the rim portion of the bowl portion preferably forms part of a true circle having a predetermined radius.

In the present invention thus constituted, the majority of the rear region of the rim portion of the bowl portion forms part of a true circle having a predetermined radius, therefore when a user views it from diagonally forward and above, the majority of the most prominent rear region of the rim portion of the bowl portion forms part of a true circle of a predetermined radius, therefore the aesthetic appeal of the overall bowl portion can be improved.

In the present invention, the water spouting portion is preferably provided with a water spouting port formed in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion; in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion, the inner surface of the rim portion is formed in an overhanging shape of a vertical surface and a horizontal surface extending inward from the vertical surface; an indented space protruding forward in the vicinity of the front edge of the rim portion is formed on the shelf portion by the vertical surface and horizontal surface, and in the indented space, the water spouting port of the water spouting portion and the vertical surface of the rim portion are continuously formed so as to be flush.

In the present invention thus constituted, the water spouting portion is provided with a water spouting port formed in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion; in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion, an indented space protruding forward is formed on the shelf portion by a vertical surface and a horizontal surface extending inward from the vertical surface; and in the indented space the water spouting port of the water spouting portion and the vertical surface of the rim portion are continuously formed so as to be flush, therefore the water spouting port of the water spouting portion is difficult to see by a user looking from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion, so that the user's perception of cleanliness can be improved. The aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole is also improved.

Advantageous Effects of the Invention

According to the flush toilet of the present invention, the user's perceived sense of cleanliness can be improved, and the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion as a whole can be improved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a schematic perspective view showing a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a side view in which the toilet seat and toilet cover are omitted in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **3** is a plan view showing the main toilet unit of a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **4** is a cross sectional view seen along line IV-IV in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5** is a cross sectional view seen along line V-V in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **6** is a cross sectional view seen along line VI-VI in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **7** is a cross sectional view seen along line VII-VII in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **8** is a perspective view showing the water conduit in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **9** is an enlarged perspective view in which the rim water spouting port in the front region within the bowl portion of a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention is viewed diagonally from below looking from the rear side;

FIG. **10** is a partial enlarged plan view in which the front part of a flush toilet according to the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **3** is enlarged;

FIG. **11** is a partial enlarged plan view in which the rim water spouting portion of a flush toilet according to the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **3** is enlarged;

FIG. **12** is a side view showing the flush toilet main body prior to an adhesion step in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **13** is a front cross sectional view showing the flush toilet main body prior to an adhesion step in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **14** is a perspective view explaining in schematic form the first circulation first swirl trajectory and the second circulation second swirl trajectory in the rim spout water when a rim cleaning is implemented after the start of jet cleaning of a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **15** is a perspective view explaining in a schematic manner the state whereby the swirling flow of rim spout water in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention flows downward into a concave portion;

FIG. **16**(*a*) is an example of the results of an analysis of the distribution of flow rates in the rim spout water and the jet spout water when a toilet is flushed using a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. **16**(*b*) shows the results of an analysis of flow rate distribution for rim spout water and jet spout water when a toilet is flushed using a conventional flush toilet, as a comparative example relative to the analytic results shown in FIG. **16**(*a*); and

FIG. **17**(*a*) is an example of the results of an analysis of the distribution of flow rates in the jet spout water and the appearance of the flow when a toilet is flushed using a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention; and FIG. **17**(*b*) shows the results of an analysis of flow rate distribution for jet spout water and the appearance of the flow when a toilet is flushed using a conventional flush toilet, as a comparison example relative to the analytic results shown in FIG. **17**(*a*).

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the attached drawings, a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described.

FIG. **1** is a schematic perspective view showing the toilet seat on a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIG. **1**, the flush toilet **1** according to an embodiment of the present invention is what is known as a wash-down type flush toilet in which waste is washed away by the flow action created by water dropping within the bowl portion; it is provided with a ceramic toilet main unit **2**, a toilet lid **4** covering a toilet seat (not shown) disposed on the upper surface of the toilet main unit **2**, and a gravity feed reservoir tank **6** serving as flush water source, for storing flush water used in toilet flushing and for supplying water to the toilet main unit **2**.

Note that with respect to the flush water source supplying flush water to the toilet main unit **2**, there is no limitation to a tank-type apparatus such as the gravity fed reservoir tank **6** shown in this embodiment; flush water may also be supplied by a water main direct pressure system directly utilizing water main supply pressure, or by a flush valve, or by pump assisted pressure, etc.

FIG. **2** is a side view in which the toilet seat and toilet cover are omitted from a flush toilet according to an embodi-

ment of the present invention; FIG. **3** is a plan view showing a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, a bowl portion **8** is formed at the front top portion of the toilet main unit **2**. Also, a water conduit **10** for spouting flush water supplied from the reservoir tank **6** to the bowl portion **8** is formed at the rear top portion of the toilet main unit **2**.

In addition, a water discharge trap pipe **12** serving as a discharge path for discharging waste inside the bowl portion **8** is formed at the bottom of the bowl portion **8**.

The bowl portion **8** is provided with a bowl-shaped waste receiving surface **14**, a rim portion **16** formed along the top edge portion of the bowl portion **8**, and a shelf portion **18** formed between this waste receiving surface **14** and the rim portion **16**.

The bowl portion **8** is provided with a concave portion **20** formed in a region below the waste receiving surface **14** and connected to the water discharge trap pipe **12**; this concave portion **20** is provided with a bottom surface **20***a* and a wall surface **20***b* connecting the bottom surface **20***a* and the bottom edge portion **14***a* of the waste receiving surface **14**.

In addition, seen from the front side of the toilet main unit **2** with respect to center line A**1** (see FIG. **3**) which equally divides the bowl portion **8** in the left-right direction, a jet water spouting port **22** is formed on the side wall surface **20***b* at the left side of the concave portion **20**; this jet water spouting port **22** is connected from the shared water conduit **10***a* on the water conduit **10**, described in detail below, to the branched jet water conduit **10***b*, and the main flow of the flush water spouted from the jet water spouting port **22** circulates within the concave portion **20**. Thus when flush water is spouted from the jet water spouting port **22** it becomes difficult for accumulated water in the concave portion **20** of the bowl portion **8** to spread outward by the swirling flow f**4** of the jet water spout, and floating waste can be gathered at approximately the center of the water accumulated in the concave portion **20** and reliably discharged. In addition, water splash-ups produced by the swirling, downward flow, and collision of rim spout water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** described below can be more effectively suppressed when flush water seeks to splash out of the bowl portion **8** concave portion **20**.

An inlet port **12***a* on the above-described water discharge trap pipe **12** opens at the back and rear of the concave portion **20** of the waste receiving surface **14** of the bowl portion **8**; a rise path **12***b* extends rearward from this inlet port **12***a*. A fall path **12***c* connects to this rise path **12***b*; the bottom end of this fall path **12***c* is connected to an underfloor discharge pipe (not shown) via a discharge socket **24**.

Note that in the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, one example of a floor discharge-type flush toilet in which the bottom end of the fall path **12***c* on a water discharge trap pipe **12** is connected to an underfloor discharge pipe (not shown) is described, but the flush toilet is not limited to this form, and may also be applied to an above-floor discharge-type flush toilet in which the end of the fall path **12***c* is disposed on the rear wall side of the flush toilet and is connected to an above-floor discharge pipe.

Next, referring to FIGS. **2** through **8**, details of the water conduit **10** on flush toilet **1** are described.

FIGS. **4** through **7** are respectively cross sectional views seen along lines IV-IV, V-V, VI-VI, and VII-VII in FIG. **3**; FIG. **8** is a perspective view showing the overall water conduit in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIGS. **2** through **8**, the water conduit **10** is provided with: a shared water conduit **10***a* extending from the inlet portion **10***c* connected to the discharge port **6***a* on the reservoir tank **6** to the vicinity of the back surface side of the bowl portion **8**, and a jet water conduit **10***b* and rim water conduit **10***d* respectively branching from the water conduit **10***a* in the vicinity of the back surface side of the bowl portion **8**.

The rim water conduit **10***d* branches from the shared water conduit **10***a* in the vicinity of the back surface of the bowl portion **8**, extending toward the front along the interior of the rim portion **16** positioned on the left side as seen from the front side of the toilet main unit **2** relative to the center line A**1** (see FIG. **3**) which equally divides the bowl portion **8** in the left-right direction, and extends up to a single rim spouting port **26** (described in detail below) disposed on the left side as seen from the front side of the toilet main unit **2** within the front region F of the rim portion **16**.

The jet water conduit **10***b* branches from the shared water conduit **10***a* in the vicinity of the back side of the bowl portion **8**, extending forward so as to circumvent the outside of the left side wall surface **20***b* of the concave portion **20** of the bowl portion **8** seen from the front side of the toilet main unit **2** relative to the center line A**1** (see FIG. **3**) which equally divides the bowl portion **8** in the left-right direction, then extending up to the jet water spouting port **22** formed on the left side wall surface **20***b* of the concave portion **20**. When the bowl portion **8** is respectively equally divided in the front-back and left-right directions, the jet water spouting port **22** is disposed on the rear side relative to the rim spouting port **26** on the rim portion **16**, and on the left side when seen from the front of the bowl portion **8**.

Note that it is sufficient for the rim spouting port **26** and the jet water spouting port **22** to be formed on the same side on either the left or the right of the bowl portion **8**.

By forming the rim spouting port **26** on the front side of the jet water spouting port **22**, even if splashing outside of the concave portion **20** of the bowl portion **8** by the swirl flow (referred to below as "diagonal swirl flow f**4**") of flush water spouted from the jet water spouting port **22** occurs, it can be restrained by the force of the swirl flow (referred to below as "swirl flow f**5**") spouted from the rim spouting port **26**.

Furthermore, the route length L**1** of the rim water conduit **10***d* is set to be longer than the route length L**2** of the jet water conduit **10***b* as a means of setting the timing of water spouting so that jet spouting of flush water conducted to the jet water spouting port **22** through the jet water conduit **10***b* from the shared water conduit **10***a* begins prior to commencing rim spouting of flush water conducted to the rim spouting port **26** through the rim water conduit **10***d* from the shared water conduit **10***a*. This form of setting permits air present in the shared water conduit **10***a* at the time of flush start to be evacuated from the jet water spouting port **22** via the jet water conduit **10***b*, so that air discharged from the rim spouting port **26** when water spouting at the rim spouting port **26** begins can be reduced using a simple structure. The popping sound and splash-up produced when air, having flowed from the shared water conduit **10***a* into the rim water conduit **10***d* together with flush water, is compressed within the rim water conduit **10***d* and discharged from the rim spouting port **26** can be prevented, as can the splashing of water to outside the toilet **1**.

Also, even if water splash-up occurs when air compressed within the jet water conduit **10***b* is discharged together with flush water at the jet water spouting port **22**, the jet water spouting port **22** is positioned at the bottom in the bowl

portion **8**—i.e. on the side wall surface **20***b* of the concave portion **20** between the waste receiving surface **14** and the water discharge trap pipe **12**, therefore water splashing outside of the toilet **1** can be prevented.

Furthermore, even if the air present within the shared water conduit **10***a* when flushing begins mixes in with flush water flowing from the shared water conduit **10***a* to the rim water conduit **10***d*, a rim spouting port **26** is formed on the front region F of the bowl portion **8**, so that the rim water conduit **10***d* forms a comparatively long path from the shared water conduit **10***a* in the vicinity of the back surface of the bowl portion **8** to the rim spouting port **26**, and air becomes sufficiently diffused as it flows through the rim water conduit **10***d* that the popping sound and water splash-up produced when water is spouted from the rim spouting port **26** can be suppressed.

Note that in the present embodiment, it is explained as an example of a means for starting jet water spouting before the start of rim water spouting a form whereby the route length L**1** of the rim water conduit **10***d* is set to be longer than the route length L**2** of the jet water conduit **10***b*, but the present invention is not limited to this form, and it is also acceptable to set the respective flow rates and volumes within the rim water conduit and the jet water conduit so that jet water spouting is started before the start of rim water spouting.

It is also acceptable to provide a pipe member communicating with the shared water conduit **10***a* and the interior of the concave portion **20** in place of the jet water conduit **10***b* as a way of evacuating air inside the shared water conduit **10***a*.

Next, referring to FIG. **3**, FIGS. **5** through **7**, and FIGS. **9** through **11**, details of a rim portion **16**, a shelf portion **18** and a rim spouting port **26** of the bowl portion **8** of the flush toilet **1** are described.

FIG. **9** is an enlarged perspective view of the rim spouting port in the front region within the bowl portion of a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention as seen from the diagonally below on the rear side; FIG. **10** is a partial enlarged plan view zoomed in on the front part of the flush toilet according to the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **3**; FIG. **11** is a partial enlarged perspective view zoomed in on the rim spouting port part of a flush toilet according to the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **2**.

As shown in FIGS. **3** and **10**, the bowl portion **8** is provided with a front region F and a rear region R, which are equal divisions of the bowl portion **8** created by the center line A**2** (see FIG. **3**) extending in the left-right direction of the bowl portion **8**.

The front region F of the bowl portion **8** is provided with a region F**1** which is disposed symmetrically relative to the center line A**1** and the front end portion **16***a* (the inner circumferential front end portion **16***a*) of the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16**, and includes the front end portion **16***a*, a region F**2** positioned behind the region F**1**, and a region F**3** positioned yet further behind this region F**2**.

The front end portion **16***a* within the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16** has the smallest curvature radius ρ**1** within the entire perimeter of the rim portion **16**; the rim spouting port **26** is formed within the front region F**2** positioned behind the front end portion **16***a* within the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16**, and flush water is spouted toward this front end portion **16***a*.

In other words, the rim spouting port **26** is disposed in the vicinity of the minimum curvature radius portion positioned at the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, and by spouting flush water toward this minimum curvature radius portion, the water spouting direction vector and the water flow force of the flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** can be stabilized so that after passing through the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** while maintaining a comparatively high water flow force, flush water can swirl to the rear region R of the rim portion **16**. By so doing, the easily dirtied rear region R of the bowl portion **8** can be properly washed, and since the flush water continues to swirl with its flow force maintained after passing through the rear region R, a situation is prevented whereby cleaning is poor due to an inability to also swirl in the vicinity of the rim portion **16** front end portion **16***a*.

Flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** makes a first circulation swirl along the rim portion **16** after passing the smallest curvature radius portion of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, but the flow of flush water flowing down from the rim spouting port **26** to the shelf portion **18** is suppressed by the effect of centrifugal force acting on the outer side of the rim portion **16** when passing the smallest curvature radius portion of this rim portion **16**, therefore a collision with the swirling flow on the shelf portion **18** can be restrained when the first circulation swirl has ended and the second circulation swirl is seeking to begin.

In addition, the rim spouting port **26** is adjacent on the left side as seen from the front side of the toilet main unit **2** relative to the front end portion **16***a* within the front region F**1** of the bowl portion **8** rim portion **16**, and is formed within the front region F**2**, which is the part in which the curvature radius ρ**2** changes from a large curvature radius to a small curvature radius from the rear toward the front. Flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** thus immediately reaches the front end portion **16***a* on the rim portion **16** with a strong flow force maintained, and can thereafter swirl to the rear region R of the rim portion **16**, thus preventing a situation in which cleaning is poor due to an inability to swirl in the vicinity of the smallest curvature radius front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**. Moreover, a moderate energy loss arising when flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** at a strong flow force toward the front end portion **16***a* in the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16** passes over the front end within the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16** formed at the minimum curvature radius ρ**1** results in moderate restraint of flow force so that splashing of flush water outside the toilet due to over-strong flow force can be prevented.

Also, the majority of the rear region R of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** forms a portion (an arc shape) of a true circle having a fixed radius (curvature radius ρ**3**). Therefore since the curvature radius ρ**3** (the radius of the circle) does not change in the majority of the rear region R of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, loss of energy in the flush water when passing over rear region R of the rim portion **16** can be restrained, and flush water can be made to more reliably swirl, such that swirling occurs with a comparatively strong flow force maintained up to the rim portion **16** rear region R, and the rear region R of the bowl portion **8**, which is easily-dirtied, can be reliably cleaned. Also, since the majority of the rear region R of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** forms a portion of a true circle of a predetermined radius (curvature radius ρ**3**), the majority of the rear region R of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** which is most prominent when seen by a user from diagonally forward and above forms a portion of a true circle with a predetermined radius (curvature radius ρ**3**), thereby improving the aesthetic appeal of the entire bowl portion **8**.

Within the front region F, the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** is provided with a front region F**3** formed at a curvature radius ρ**4**, equal to the curvature radius ρ**2** and larger than the curvature radius ρ**3** (ρ**4**=ρ**2**>ρ**3**); this front region F**3** is disposed to be closely proximate to the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* within the front region F**1** between the front region F**2** and the rear region R. Thus flush water which has passed from the rim spouting port **26** through the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** passes through the front region F**2** proximate to the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* in the front region F**1** of the bowl portion **8** rim portion **16** and maintains a comparatively strong flow force as it flows into the front region F**3**. By flowing through the front region F**3** of the rim portion **16** formed with a curvature radius ρ**4**, which is larger than the curvature radius ρ**3** of the rear region R of the rim portion **16**, this flush water is able to flow smoothly to the rear region R of the rim portion **16**, maintaining in a stable state the flow force of the flush water from front regions F**1** and F**2**, which is comparatively stronger than that of the front region F**3**, so that even if the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16** has a shape rising essentially vertically, splashing to the outside of the flush toilet **1** by flush water flowing in the rim portion **16** can be prevented.

Note that in this embodiment, it is explained the form in which the curvature radius ρ**1** in the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16** is set to be smaller than the curvature radius ρ**3** of the rear region R of the rim portion **16**, but the flush toilet is not limited to this form, and it is also acceptable to set the curvature radius ρ**1** of the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16** to be equal to the curvature radius ρ**3** of the rear region R of the rim portion **16**. Alternatively, it is also acceptable to set any one of the curvature radii ρ**1**, ρ**2**, or ρ**4** of the front regions F**1**, F**2**, and F**3** of the rim portion **16** to be equal to the curvature radius ρ**3** of the rear region R of the rim portion **16**.

The bowl portion **8** rim portion **16** is provided with an overhanging part **16***b*, formed in a shape such that the top edge portion from the rim spouting port **26** in the front region F**2** facing toward the front side up to the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* within the front region F**1** of the rim portion **16** protrudes locally inward, and the top of the rim spouting port **26** is covered by this overhanging part **16***b*.

The rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** is provided with a rising portion **16***c* shaped to rise in an appropriate vertical direction in the region of the inner circumferential surface **17** outside the overhanging part **16***b*.

Thus an inward-facing overhang shape is formed by the overhanging part **16***b* in the front regions F**1** and F**2** around the front end portion **16***a* of the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16**, and in the front region F**3** and rear region R outside the vicinity of the rim portion **16** front end portion **16***a*, is formed into an approximately vertical rising shape, so that in the vicinity of the smallest curvature radius ρ**1** front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, there is no splashing of water outside the flush toilet **1**, and the flow force of flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** can be increased. Also, since flush water can swirl up to the rear region R of the rim portion **16** while sufficiently maintaining a comparatively strong flow force, the easily dirtied rear region of the bowl portion **8** can also be more reliably cleaned.

Also, because of the overhanging part **16***b* in the front regions F**1** and F**2** in the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, even if splash-up occurs near the rim spouting port **26** of the rim portion **16** where it is particularly prone to occur, that splash-up hits the top edge portion of the overhanging part **16***b* on the rim portion **16**, therefore splashing outside the toilet **1** can be prevented.

In addition, since the inner circumferential surface **17** of the bowl portion **8** rim portion **16** is formed to rise approximately vertically in the region of the front end, any waste which may adhere there can be easily removed, and sanitation improved.

Note that in the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, it is explained as an example a form in which the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16** is provided with a rising portion **16***c*, but as an alternative to this rising portion **16***c*, this could also be set to an overhang shape over essentially the entire perimeter of the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion, or could be what is known as the open rim type, in which the inside of a rim water conduit formed along the circumferential direction of the rim portion **16** is left open.

The rim spouting port **26** is positioned by a predetermined distance h above the height position of the shelf portion **18** of the bowl portion **8**, and is formed at the top end side of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**. Thus flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** forms a flow (swirl flow f**1**) which passes the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** where the curvature radius is small and swirls to the rear side of the rim portion **16**, forming a falling flow (falling flow f**2**) from the top end side of the rim portion **16**; the interior of the bowl portion **8** can thus be effectively cleaned by this swirl flow f**1** and falling flow f**2**. The flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26**, which is in a comparatively high position disposed at the top end side of the rim portion **16**, enables reliable cleaning around the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**.

Moreover, by forming the rim spouting port **26** on the rim portion **16** at a predetermined distance h above the shelf portion **18**, flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** swirls, as will be described in detail below using FIGS. **14** and **15**, without the swirl flow f**1** of the first circulation first swirl trajectory T**1** flowing down on the shelf portion **18**; the second circulation second swirl trajectory T**2** swirl flow f**3** swirls on the shelf portion **18**, and in the vicinity of the rim spouting port **26** where splashing is particularly prone to occur, splash-up caused by the collision between flush water swirling around the rim portion **16** in the first circulation first swirl trajectory T**1** and the second circulation second swirl trajectory T**2** can be suppressed.

In addition, because the rim spouting port **26** is formed at the top end side of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, the rim spouting port **26** reliably falls into the blind angle of the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16** from the standpoint of a user looking at the bowl portion **8** from diagonally forward and above, making it more difficult for the user to see the rim spouting port **26**. Furthermore, in addition to improving the sense of cleanliness perceived by the user, the overall aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** can also be improved.

Moreover, the rim spouting port **26** is formed on the rim portion **16**, which is positioned further outside (on the outside portion **18***b* side of the shelf portion **18**) than the inner edge portion **18***a* of the shelf portion **18** of the bowl portion **8**, and as will be described in detail below using FIGS. **14** and **15**, in plan view the first swirl trajectory T**1** is positioned outside of the second swirl trajectory T**2**. Thus in the vicinity of the rim spouting port **26** where splashing is particularly prone to occur, splash-up caused by collision

between the flush water in the first swirl trajectory T1 and the second swirl trajectory T2 can be effectively suppressed.

Also, the rim portion **16** on the bowl portion **8** is provided with a continuously formed portion **26***c*, continuously formed from a top edge portion **26***b* forming the top surface of a water passageway **26***a* formed within the rim spouting port **26**, facing downstream to the rising portion **16***c* on the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16**; this continuously formed portion **26***c* is positioned on the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16** to the right of the center line A1 (see FIG. **3**) as seen from the front side of the toilet main unit **2**. The rim portion **16** overhanging part **16***b* is continuously formed on the top surface of the rim spouting port **26** by such a continuously formed portion **26***c*, therefore flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** flows smoothly along the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16**. Because of the formation of the swirl flow f1 and falling flow f2, which pass near the front end portion **16***a* of the small curvature radius rim portion **16**, the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** can be reliably cleaned. In addition, the continuous formation of the top edge portion **26***b* forming the top surface of the water passageway **26***a* forming rim spouting port **26**, and of the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16**, enables flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** to flow smoothly along the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16** by centrifugal force, so that splash-ups produced by the collision of separate swirling flush waters can be suppressed.

The overhanging part **16***b* in the front regions F1 and F2 of the rim portion **16** extend from the rim spouting port **26** toward the front side to the front end portion **16***a* within the front region F1 of the rim portion **16**, and from this front end portion **16***a* to the continuously formed portion **26***c*; seen from above, the bowl portion **8** is symmetrically left-right disposed relative to the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**. The rim spouting port **26** is thus formed in the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, and the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16** covers the rim spouting port **26**, so that viewed by user from diagonally forward and above, the rim spouting port **26** cannot be observed. Furthermore, the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16** is formed to be left-right symmetrical in the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, thus enabling the overall aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** to be improved.

Also, facing in the direction of spouting from the rim spouting port **26***a*, the perimeter portion **26***d* on the rear side of the rim spouting port **26** is tilted from bottom to top. Flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** by means of the perimeter portion **26***d* of the rim spouting port **26** tilted from bottom to top thus forms a flow (swirl flow f1) passing the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the small curvature radius rim portion **16** and swirling toward the rear side of the rim portion **16**, and forms a falling flow (falling flow f2) from the top end side of the rim portion **16**; the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** can thus be effectively cleaned by this swirl flow f1 and falling flow f2.

The incline from bottom to the top of the rim spouting port **26** perimeter portion **26***d* in the direction of water spouting thus enables flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** to flow downward even if an uncleaned portion is created at the boundary between the first swirl trajectory T1 and the second swirl trajectory T2, thereby preventing the occurrence of such uncleaned portions.

Additionally, part of the flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** can be made to drop by the rim spouting port **26** perimeter portion **26***d* inclined from the bottom to the top in this water spouting direction, and this falling flush water allows more effective suppression of the tendency for splashing to the outside by the swirl flow f4 spouted from the jet water spouting port **22**. In the concave portion **20** of the bowl portion **8**, the addition of rim spout water falling in this way to water spouted from the jet water spouting port **22** results in the creation of a swirl flow f4 provided with a strong rotational force in which the horizontal swirl flow and the vertical swirl flow are combined, thereby raising waste discharge performance. Moreover, splash-ups arising when rim spout water and jet spout water collide can also be more effectively suppressed.

The bowl portion **8** rim portion **16** is formed to be left-right symmetrical in the rear region R and front region F3, etc. within the bowl portion **8** visible to the user when the bowl portion **8** is viewed diagonally from forward and above; the inside circumference of the rim spouting port **26** is open but the top is covered by the overhanging part **16***b*, so is not visible to a user looking at the rim portion **16** diagonally from forward and above the bowl portion **8**, and the overall aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** can thus be improved.

In particular, as shown in FIGS. **9** through **11**, the rim spouting port **26** is formed in the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, and the inner circumferential surface **17** in the front region F1 of the rim portion **16** is formed into an overhang shape in the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** by a vertical surface **17***a* and a horizontal surface **17***b* extending inward from this vertical surface **17***a*. A forward protruding concave space B is formed on the shelf portion **18** in the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** by this vertical surface **17***a* and horizontal surface **17***b*, and within this concave space B the rim spouting port **26** and the vertical surface **17***a* of the rim portion **16** are continuous so as to be flush.

I.e., in the bowl portion **8** rim portion **16** front regions F1 and F2, the rim spouting port **26** is formed within an indented space B, formed so as to protrude forward of and by a predetermined width to the left and right relative to a virtual surface **16***d*, which is flush with the inner circumferential surface **17** forming the rising portion **16***c* rising essentially vertically in the rear region R and front region F3 of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**. The top edge portion of this concave space B matches the overhanging part **16***b*, and the bottom end of the front end portion **16***a* of the inner circumference surface **16***f* in the concave space B matches the front end **18***c* of the outside portion **18***b* of the shelf portion **18**.

The rim spouting port **26** is positioned forward of the rear edge **16***e* of the top edge portion **16***b* of indented space B and behind the front end **18***c* of the outside edge portion **18***b* of the shelf portion **18**; a water passageway **26***a* extending from the rear end of the rim spouting port **26** perimeter portion **26***d* along the inner circumference surface **16***f* within the indented space B up to the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* is formed within the indented space B, and the extended part **26***e* extending from this water passageway **26***a* through the front most portion **16***a* of the inner circumference surface **16***f* within the indented space B is continuously formed from within the indented space B to the continuously formed portion **26***c* of the rim portion inner circumferential surface **16***c*. It is thus difficult for users viewing the bowl portion **8** diagonally from forward and above to see the rim

spouting port **26**, and the sense of cleanliness perceived by the user can thus be improved.

Furthermore, although discussed in detail below using FIGS. **14** and **15**, the direction in which flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** swirls and the direction in which flush water spouted from the jet water spouting port **22** swirls are the same direction when seen in plan view. The water spouting direction D**1** in the jet water spouting port **22** (arrow D**1** in FIG. **14**) is diagonally downward facing the front, and is essentially the same as the water spouting direction D**2** in the rim spouting port **26** (arrow D**2** in FIG. **14**).

Next, referring to FIGS. **6**, **10**, **12**, and **13**, an adhesive step when manufacturing a ceramic flush toilet **1** according to an embodiment of the present invention is described.

FIG. **12** is a side view showing the toilet main unit prior to the adhesive step in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention; FIG. **13** is a front cross sectional view showing the toilet main unit prior to the adhesive step in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIGS. **12** and **13**, the ceramic toilet main unit **2** of the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment is provided with a bottom toilet main unit **2***a* provided with a bowl portion **8** on which a waste receiving surface **14** and a shelf portion **18** are formed and from which a rim portion **16** is excluded, and a top side toilet main unit **2***b* provided with a rim portion **16**, formed in advance separate from the bottom toilet main unit **2***a* at the time the toilet main unit **2** is manufactured, following which a bottom end portion **2***d* is adhered over the entire perimeter of the top end portion **2***c* of the bottom toilet main unit **2***a* in the adhesion step. This top side toilet main unit **2***b* is provided with a rim portion **16**, which is adhered to the top end portion of the bowl portion **8** of the bottom toilet main unit **2***a*.

As shown in FIG. **13**, the rim portion **16** of the top side toilet main unit **2***b* is provided with a rim inner wall portion **16***g* and a rim outer wall portion **16***h* respectively formed on the inner circumference and the outer circumference of the rim portion **16**, a rim bottom surface portion **16***i* joining the two bottom end portions of the rim inner wall portion **16***g* and the rim outer wall portion **16***h*, and a rim top surface portion **16***j* joining the two top end portions of the rim inner wall portion **16***g* and the rim outer wall portion **16***h*, whereby the rim water conduit **10***d* is formed by the rim inner wall portion **16***g*, rim outer wall portion **16***h*, rim bottom surface portion **16***i*, and rim top surface portion **16***j*. By thus utilizing the space formed by the rim inner wall portion **16***g*, rim outer wall portion **16***h*, rim bottom surface portion **16***i*, and rim top surface portion **16***j* as a rim water conduit **10***d*, there is no need to erect a separate water conduit, and a simple structure may be adopted for the toilet main unit **2**. The structure is even further simplified by forming the rim spouting port **26** on the rim inner wall portion **16***g*, which is at a front position on the bowl portion **8**.

In addition, FIGS. **6** and **10** show the toilet main unit **2** following the step in which the bottom toilet main unit **2***a* and the top side toilet main unit **2***b* are adhered, but the adhesion line C (border line) showing the adhesion portion between the bowl portion **8** part of bottom toilet main unit **2***a* excluding the rim portion **16** and the rim portion **16** of the top side toilet main unit **2***b* is positioned within the bottom region of the rim bottom surface portion **16***i* when seen in plan view from above. Therefore even if the adhesion line C, being the adhesion portion between the rim portion **16** and the bowl portion **8** excluding this rim portion **16**, appears on the outer surface of the toilet main unit **2**, this boundary line C is positioned within the bottom region of the rim bottom surface portion **16***i* when seen from above, and is therefore hidden by the rim bottom surface portion of the rim portion so that it cannot be seen, thereby improving the overall external aesthetic appeal of the toilet **1**.

Also, as shown in FIGS. **6** and **13**, with respect to the adhesion line C, being the adhesion portion between the bowl portion **8** in the bottom toilet main unit **2***a* and the rim portion **16** of the top side toilet main unit **2***b*, line contact between the top end portion **8***a* of the bowl portion **8** and the bottom end portion **16***k* of the rim inner wall portion **16***g* in the adhesion step forms a boundary line between the bowl portion **8** main unit and the rim portion **16**, and this boundary line can be seen from the inside of the bowl portion **8** main unit and the rim portion **16**. Thus when the rim portion **16** and the bowl portion **8** excluding the rim portion **16** are adhered at the time of manufacture of the toilet main unit **2**, the boundary line (adhesion line C) formed by the line contact between the bottom end portion of the rim inner wall portion **16***g* and the top end portion **8***a* of the bowl portion **8** excluding the rim portion **16** is visible from inside the bowl portion **8**, thereby facilitating the work of adhering the rim portion **16** and the bowl portion **8** excluding the rim portion **16** when the toilet main unit **2** is manufactured.

Next, referring to FIGS. **1** through **17**, an operation of a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention is described.

FIG. **14** is a perspective view explaining in schematic form the first circulation first trajectory and the second circulation second swirling trajectory by the rim spout water when a rim cleaning is implemented after the start of jet flushing in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention; FIG. **15** is a perspective view explaining in a schematic form the state whereby the swirling flow of rim spout water in a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention flows downward into a concave portion.

First, toilet flushing is started when a user operates an operating lever (not shown) in order to flush the toilet, and flush water in the reservoir tank **6** flows through the shared water conduit **10***a*, branching into jet water conduit **10***b* and rim water conduit **10***d*. After spouting from the jet water spouting port **22** has started at the beginning, spouting from the rim spouting port **26** then begins at a delay. At this point, the water spouting direction D**1** in the jet water spouting port **22** (arrow D**1** in FIG. **14**) is diagonally downward facing forward, and is essentially the same as the water spouting direction D**2** in the rim spouting port **26** (arrow D**2** in FIG. **14**).

As shown in FIGS. **11** and **14**, rim spout water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** flows to the front side along the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion **16**, passes the vicinity of the front end portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** where the curvature radius is smallest, and forms a flow (swirl flow f**1**) which swirls in a left rotation to the rear side of the rim portion **16**, as well as forming a flow (falling flow f**2**) by which a part of the rim spout water falls down from the top end side of the rim portion **16**. After the first circulation, rim spout water also forms a second circulation left rotation swirl flow f**3** inside the first circulation swirl flow f**1**.

On the other hand, jet spouted water spouted diagonally downward toward the front (spouting direction D**1**) from the jet water spouting port **22** flows along the front side wall surface **20***b* and the bottom surface **20***a* on the front side within the concave portion **20**, and after swirling as it rises

diagonally upward from the bottom toward the rear side, forms a diagonal swirl flow f**4**, which swirls along the rear side wall surface **20***b* within the concave portion **20**. This diagonal swirl flow f**4** forms a left-rotation swirl flow when the concave portion **20** is seen in plan view from above; the swirl direction of the rim-spouted water and the swirl direction of the jet-spouted water are the same (left-rotating) when seen in plan view.

As shown in FIG. **14**, the first swirl trajectory T**1** at the time flush water spouted from the rim spouting port **26** is swirling in the first circulation swirl flow f**1** along the rim portion **16** is positioned above and outside the second swirl trajectory T**2** at the time of swirling by the second circulation swirl flow f**3** along the rim portion **16** and shelf portion **18** after the first circulation swirl is ended in this first circulation first swirl trajectory T**1**.

Next, as shown in FIG. **14**, rim spout water flows down within the concave portion **20** along the waste receiving surface **14** while for the most part maintaining its force in the direction of the left-rotating swirl flow; it then merges with the swirl flow of the jet spout water in the concave portion **20** and produces a diagonal swirl flow f**4** with a comparatively strong and fast rotational force in the concave portion **20**.

Also, as shown in FIG. **15**, new rim spouting continues to occur from the rim spouting port **26** after the rim spout water merges with the diagonal swirl flow f**4** of the jet spouted water in the concave portion **20**, and as the volume of rim spout water swirling on the waste receiving surface **14** increases, the swirl flow f**5** of rim spout water at increased flow force flows down and merges toward the diagonal swirl flow f**4** of jet spout water in the concave portion **20**, forming a flow by which waste in the concave portion **20** is strongly pushed toward the inlet port **12***a* of the water discharge trap pipe **12**.

Finally, the comparatively strong rotational force of the diagonal swirl flow f**4** in the concave portion **20** after merging with the rim spout water enables high specific gravity waste to be pushed into the water discharge trap pipe **12** from the bowl portion **8**, and enables low specific gravity floating waste to be sent into the water discharge trap pipe **12** from the bowl portion **8** by the comparatively fast post-merge rotating diagonal swirl flow f**4**.

Next, FIG. **16**(*a*) shows an example of the results of a flow speed distribution analysis of rim spout water and jet spout water when a toilet is flushed using a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention; FIG. **16**(*b*) shows, as a comparative example relative to the analytic results shown in FIG. **16**(*a*), the results of a flow speed distribution analysis of rim spout water and jet spout water when flushing a conventional toilet.

The shading of the flush water shown in FIG. **16** indicates the extent of the flush water flow speed; when the toilet main unit **2** of the flush toilet **1** in the above-described embodiment is seen from above, a comparatively large flush water flow speed is obtained from the rim spouting port in the bowl portion, passing the rim portion front end, up to the rear region in which it swirls in left rotation, and in the vicinity of the jet water spouting port of the concave portion and the region in front of same.

In contrast, the flush toilet in the comparative example shown in FIG. **16**(*b*) differs from the form of the flush toilet **1** in the present embodiment, and is a form in which two rim spouting ports (first and second rim spouting ports) are provided in the region on the rear side of the rim portion, and a jet spouting port is provided on the side wall surface on one side of the concave portion within the bowl portion, but in the region from the rim portion front end in the bowl portion to the vicinity of the rear side second rim spouting port, the flow speed of the flush water is comparatively small compared to the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, so it is apparent that the flushing power of the flush toilet of the present embodiment is improved compared to a conventional flush toilet.

Next, FIG. **17**(*a*) shows an example of the results of an analysis of flow speed distribution and the appearance of flow of jet spout water when a toilet is flushed using a flush toilet according to an embodiment of the present invention; FIG. **17**(*b*) shows, as a comparative example relative to the analytic results shown in FIG. **17**(*a*), the results of an analysis of jet flow water speed distribution and the appearance thereof when a toilet is flushed using a conventional flush toilet.

First, the shading of the flow lines in the flush water shown in FIG. **17**(*a*) indicates the degree of flush water flow force, but it is apparent that when the toilet main unit **2** of the flush toilet **1** of the above-described present embodiment is viewed from the side, jet spout water spouted diagonally downward facing forward from the jet spouting port on the concave portion of the bowl portion flows along the front side wall surface and bottom surface in the concave portion, and swirls as it rises diagonally upward from below facing the rear side, after which it forms a diagonal swirl flow f**4** which swirls along the wall surface on the rear side in the concave portion and diagonally downward.

In contrast, the flush toilet of the comparative example shown in FIG. **17**(*b*) is of the same form as the flush toilet in the comparative example shown in FIG. **16**(*b*), and the jet spout water spouted from the jet spouting port forms a flow which falls to the bottom surface of the concave portion after being spouted toward the side wall surface of the concave portion opposite the jet spouting port. Therefore the flow speed and rotational force of the swirl flow in the concave portion of the flush toilet of the comparative example is weakened and the flow pushing into the discharge trap pipe is reduced compared to the flow speed and rotational force of the strong diagonal swirl flow f**4** in the front region F of the present embodiment shown in FIG. **17**(*a*), making it apparent that waste discharge performance is improved in the flush toilet of the present embodiment compared to a conventional flush toilet.

According to the flush toilet **1** of the above-described embodiment of the present invention, the rim spouting port **26** for spouting flush water onto the shelf portion **18** of the bowl portion **8** and forming a swirl flow f**1** is formed in the front region F**2** of the bowl portion **8** and is offset from the easily dirtied rear side region R of the bowl portion **8**, making it difficult for waste to adhere to the rim spouting port **26** and its vicinity; furthermore, because the rim spouting port **26** is covered by the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16**, the user cannot see it when viewing from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion **8**, therefore the user's perception of cleanliness can be improved, as can the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** as a whole.

According to the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, the rim spouting port **26** is formed in the vicinity of the front edge portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, and the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16** covers the rim spouting port **26**, therefore the user cannot visibly perceive the rim spouting port **26**, and the user's perception of cleanliness is improved, as is the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** as a whole. Furthermore, the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16** is formed to be left-right symmetrical in the vicinity of the inner circumferential side front edge portion

16*a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, thus enabling the overall aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** to be improved.

In addition, according to the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment the rim spouting port **26** is formed on the top end side of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, therefore to a user viewing the bowl portion **8** from diagonally forward and above, the rim spouting port **26** falls squarely into the blind angle of the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16**, making it difficult for the user to see the rim spouting port **26**. The users perceived sense of cleanliness can be improved, as can the aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** as a whole.

Furthermore, according to the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, the rim spouting port **26** is hidden by the overhanging part **16***b* of the rim portion **16**, therefore the rim portion **16** can be made left-right symmetrical over the broad region visible by a user from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion **8**. As a result, the present invention enables the aesthetic appeal of the overall bowl portion **8** to be improved.

In addition, according to the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, the majority of the rear region R of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** forms part of a true circle having a predetermined radius, therefore when a user views it from diagonally forward and above, the majority of the most prominent rear region R of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8** forms part of a true circle of a predetermined radius (curvature radius ρ**3**), therefore the aesthetic appeal of the overall bowl portion **8** can be improved.

Furthermore, according to the flush toilet **1** of the present embodiment, the rim spouting port **26** is formed in the vicinity of the front edge portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16** of the bowl portion **8**, and in the vicinity of the inner circumferential side front edge portion **16***a* of the rim portion **16**, the inner circumferential surface **17** of the rim portion **16** forms an indented space B protruding forward on the shelf portion **18** comprised of the vertical surface **17***a* and the horizontal surface **17***b* extending inward from this vertical surface **17***a*; within the indented space B, the rim spouting port **26** and the vertical surface **17***a* of the rim portion **16** are continuously formed so as to be flush, making it difficult for the user to see the rim spouting port **26** when viewed from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion **8**, so that the user's perceived sense of cleanliness is improved. The aesthetic appeal of the bowl portion **8** as a whole is also improved.

Note that in the flush toilet **1** of the above-described embodiment, a flush toilet of the wash-down type is explained as an example, but the flush toilet may also be a siphon-type of flush toilet in which the siphon effect is utilized to draw in waste in the bowl portion and discharge it all at once from a discharge trap pipe.

Furthermore, in the flush toilet **1** of the above-described present embodiment, it is explained a form whereby jet spouting is performed using a jet water conduit **10***b* and a jet water spouting port **22**, and rim spouting is performed using a rim water conduit **10***d* and a rim spouting port **26**, but the present invention is not limited thereto, and may also be applied to a form in which jet spouting by the jet water conduit **10***b* and the jet water spouting port **22** is omitted, and only rim spouting by the rim water conduit **10***d* and the rim spouting port **26** is performed.

Although the present invention has been explained with reference to specific, preferred embodiments, one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that modifications and improvements can be made while remaining within the scope and spirit of the present invention. The scope of the present invention is determined solely by appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A flush toilet for discharging waste using flush water supplied from a flush water source, the flush toilet comprising:

a bowl portion including a bowl-shaped waste receiving surface, a rim portion having an inner circumferential surface formed on a top edge portion of the bowl portion so that the inner circumferential surface rises essentially vertically, and a shelf portion formed continuously between a lower end of the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion and an upper end of the waste receiving surface;

a water discharge path for discharging the waste, the path including an inlet which is connected at a bottom of the bowl portion;

a water spouting portion consisting of a single spouting port which spouts flush water toward a front end of the bowl portion onto the shelf portion and the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion so as to form a swirl flow in one direction along the shelf portion and the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion; and

a water conduit for supplying the flush water to the spouting portion;

wherein the spouting port of the water spouting portion spouting flush water toward the front end of the bowl portion is formed in either one of a right side and a left side in a front region of the bowl portion which is a front side from a center line extending transversely located at a center equidistant from the front end and a rear end of the bowl portion, the spouting port of the water spouting portion is located at an upstream area from the front end of the bowl portion in the front region of the bowl portion so that the spouted water flows on the upstream area from the front end of the bowl portion, the front end of the bowl portion, and an downstream area from the front end of the bowl portion, a part of the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion in the front region of the bowl portion is formed in an inward-facing overhanging shape, and an indented space is formed downstream from the spouting port by the circumferential surface having the overhanging shape of the rim portion and the shelf portion in the front region of the bowl portion and the indented space is further formed so as to protrude forward from a virtual surface which extends vertically between an inner end of the overhanging shape of the rim portion and the shelf portion in the front region of the bowl portion;

the spouting port of the water spouting portion is located in the indented space in the front region of the bowl portion, and covered by an overhanging part of the rim portion such that a user located in front of the flush toilet cannot observe the water spouting portion when viewing from diagonally forward and above the bowl portion;

the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion includes a vertical surface, and in the indented space, the spouting port of the water spouting portion and the vertical surface of the rim portion are continuously formed so as to be flush; and

wherein the front region of the bowl portion includes:

a first front region which includes the front end of the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion and is disposed from one end side to the other end side opposite to the one end side and symmetrically

relative to a dividing line that equally divides the bowl portion in a left-right direction in a plan view;

a second front region which is formed on an upstream side rearward from the one end side of the first front region and on a front side of the water conduit, and including the spouting port; and

a third front region which is formed on a downstream side rearward from the other end side of the first front region;

wherein the first front region has an upstream end and a downstream end, the first front region including the front end of the rim portion and having a smallest constant curvature radius of an entire perimeter of the rim portion,

wherein the spouting port is formed on a part of the second front region, where a curvature radius of the rim portion changes from a larger curvature radius to a smaller curvature radius in a direction where the flush water is supplied,

wherein the spouting port extends to the upstream end of the first front region at a downstream end of the spouting port,

wherein the overhanging part of the rim portion includes:

an upstream overhanging part which is formed from the dividing line to a rear end of the second front region in the plan view; and

a downstream overhanging part which is formed from the dividing line to a rear end of the third front region in the plan view; and

wherein the upstream overhanging part and the downstream overhanging part are disposed asymmetrically to each other with respect to the dividing line in the plan view, and a first area in the plan view of the upstream overhang part is larger than a second area in the plan view of the downstream overhang part.

2. The flush toilet according to claim **1**, wherein the water spouting portion is formed in the vicinity of a front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion, and the overhanging part of the rim portion is formed to be left-right symmetrical in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion so as to cover the water spouting portion.

3. The flush toilet according to claim **2**, wherein the water spouting portion is formed above the shelf portion by a predetermined height on a top end side of the rim portion of the bowl portion.

4. The flush toilet according to claim **1**, wherein the majority of a rear region of the rim portion of the bowl portion which is a rear side from the center line extending transversely located at the center equidistant from the front and rear ends of the bowl portion, forms part of a true circle having a predetermined radius.

5. The flush toilet according to claim **1**, wherein the spouting port is formed in the vicinity of a front end of the rim portion of the bowl portion; in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion, the inner circumferential surface of the rim portion is formed in an overhanging shape of a vertical surface and a horizontal surface extending inward from the vertical surface; and the indented space protruding forward in the vicinity of the front end of the rim portion is formed on the shelf portion by the vertical surface and horizontal surface.

6. The flush toilet according to claim **1**, wherein the shelf portion continuously extends across the front end of the bowl portion.

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